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Vol. CC, No. 2612
FEBRUARY 25, 1950

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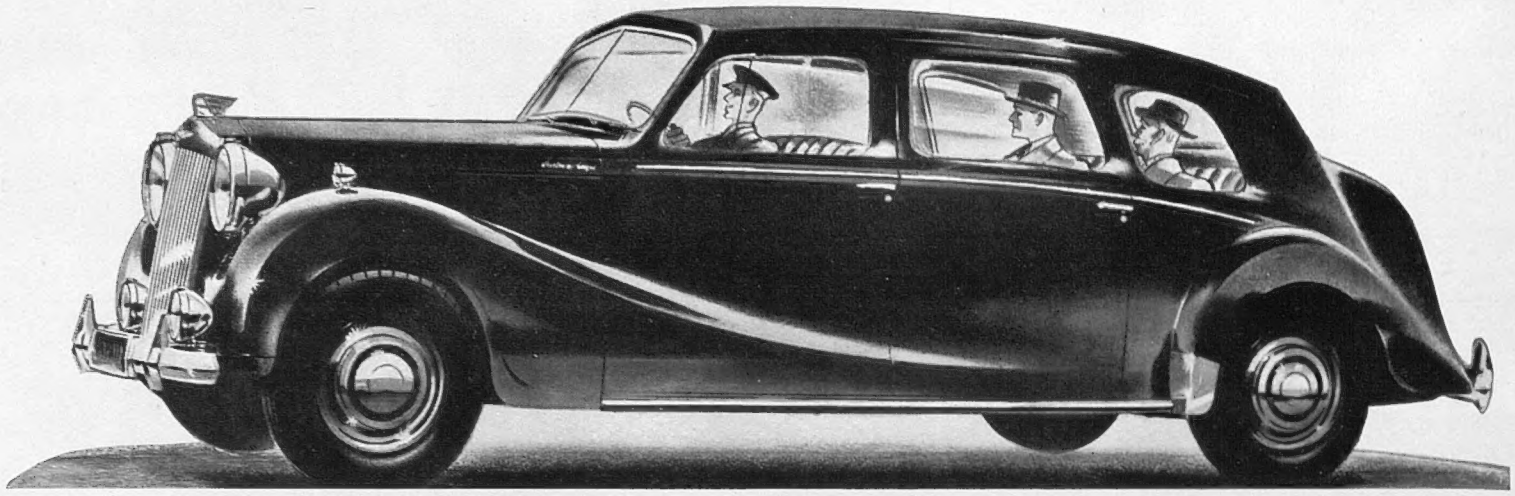

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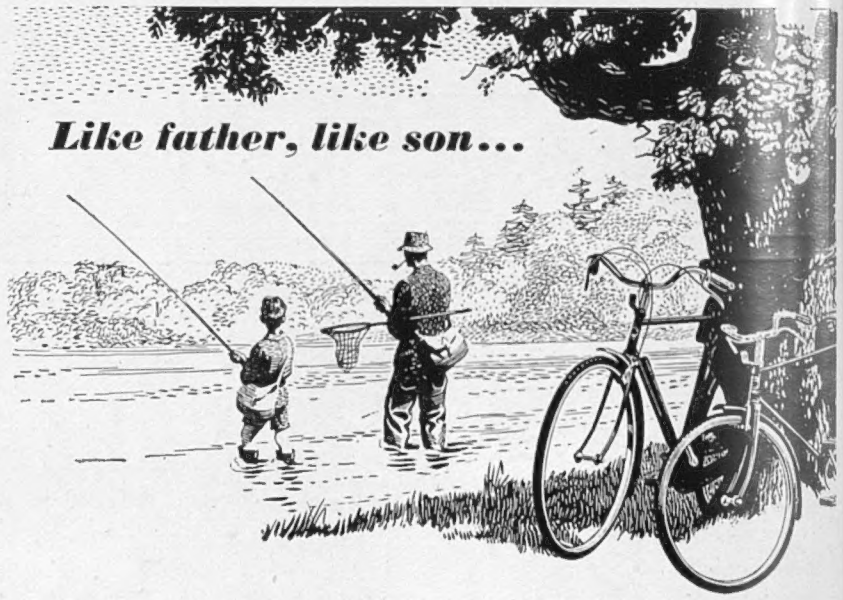

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Volume CC No. 2612 The SPHERE, London, February 25, 1950

The SPHERE
WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED "THE GRAPHIC"
THE EMPIRE'S ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

THE RADIO DOCTOR AND THE ELECTION BATTLE—DR. CHARLES HILL, WHOSE RADIO BROADCAST BROUGHT A BURST OF EXCITEMENT INTO THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE PARTIES: Dr. Hill, who contested Luton in the Liberal-Conservative interest, being faced by a Labour and an official Liberal candidate, is seen speaking through the sun-roof of a car while stumping the constituency on the eve of poll

The first days of the election passed off surprisingly quietly with few of the charges and counter-charges, the bitter personal attacks which marked the struggle in 1945. Then came the Radio Doctor to the microphone—a man whose voice is known to millions, but was not known to the general public in a political capacity, even though he had long been an opponent of Mr. Bevan in matters relating to the Health Service. Dr. Hill brought a new burst of excitement into the struggle between the parties, and on the day after his talk there were heated arguments up and down the country on the vexed questions of proteins, calories, and dietary in general which somehow or other he had invested with a new interest. In his own constituency at Luton, where he received after the broadcast thousands of letters, congratulatory and otherwise, Dr. Hill fought a three-cornered contest with an official Liberal opponent (despite his own party tag of Liberal-Conservative) and the 1945-50 Labour member against him

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A LONDON NEWSLETTER

1, NEW OXFORD STREET, W.C.1.

Radio Medicine.—The election is decided for good or ill. Even if I knew what party is *in*, I think I should still say "for good or ill." At the time of writing this, of course, I do not know. Some party is in, unless it 's a stalemate and all to do again. And a footnote on the lessons of the election is justified. In my view we had too much campaigning, too many broadcasts, too much speechifying. The idea, of course, is that all electors must have a chance of seeing, hearing and questioning their candidates. Ideally that is right. In practice it doesn't amount to much. Candidates' answers on such questions as reform of Income Tax, or vaster questions of financial and economic policy, are not to be answered in a hundred words by people who don't profess to be experts or in the know. As for the broadcasts, there were far too many and their results were devastating. The reputation of politicians was shattered by most of them. Statesmen so-called were revealed by their own utterances as amateurs or children. The truth to be reaped from history was not in them. They spoke like uneducated boors, eight times out of ten. The truth is that only trained broadcasters should use that method. It is a difficult art and few have yet mastered it. Priestley has done so, and he put across successfully a very weak and patchy case. Woolton is pretty well trained and made a good case. Lord Salisbury's dignity won a hearing. The women were painful. The one broadcaster who was *devastating off his own bat* was the Radio Doctor, and the Tories were lucky to get him. If he had broadcasted on the night of February 22, I should have been more sure of the result on February 23. Dr. Hill put his finger bang on the *truth* which only real historians understand. It is not politicians or "statesmen" who give us "bonnier babies," longer expectation of life, better conditions of living; it is the public conscience and determination, spurring on the scientists and compelling Governments to take tardy legislative action, which achieve these reforms, which are delayed and hampered by the wars brought about by the frailty of Statesmanship. No, these political party broadcasts have been devastating to the reputation of statesmen, and in most cases it was the speakers themselves who blew the gaff on their absurd pretensions to wisdom, foresight and constructive reforms.

Crime—Beyond a Joke.—I don't know whether most of the nation's constabulary has been engaged in protecting Parliamentary candidates and keeping the peace during the election campaign. I do know that another wave of burglary and outrage has coincided with the election and reached new heights of success. If the Home Secretary and Scotland Yard are not most anxiously concerned, I should be surprised. For indeed the situation is grave in the extreme. In the Metropolitan area, life and property are less secure than at any time in our history. Lawlessness is triumphant. No woman should go out alone in quiet streets after dark. Where valuables are stored, watchmen need to be doubled—and armed. And it is sheer folly to keep jewellery in a private house, even in a safe. You may say I have been reading headlines. Sensational headlines are common enough and give one-sided pictures of current conditions. That is true. A few weeks ago, we had some encouraging reports of a definite check to the post-war crime-wave, especially in London. Would officialdom endorse that report to-day, in mid-February? Headlines are sensational often enough. But they are never pure fabrications. The situation demands the priority attention of the new Parliament, a great deal of debating, a Royal Commission with all-Party support, and drastic application of remedies suggested. As long as lawlessness on the present scale continues to triumph, domestic economic policy recedes in importance. We might well take a hint from the determination of the civilians in Malaya to put down banditry. The authorities cannot do it in London without the help of the citizens; that seems clear.

Bureaucracy at Its Worst.—"Saki," that famous Edwardian wit, made reference in *Reginald* to a man he knew who "farmed his own land in Warwickshire, but was otherwise quite steady." This is the story of such a man who farms in a neighbouring county and who proved steady under bureaucratic obstinacy. He owns a tractor for use on his farm. Its registration book (in course of time) became "full up" and dilapidated, and, with his last application for renewal, he received back a virgin "continuation book," which revealed nothing of the history of the vehicle and its changes of ownership. As our farmer is an honest citizen and not a "car-faker," he preferred to keep the complete record of his tractor, so as to be able to show it to the buyer to whom he may dispose of it. The registration authority put every difficulty in his way. First they said it was not "possible" to send him the old book or to extract previous registrations. He could do it himself, if he insisted, by coming to their office. He pointed out that this journey would involve 24 miles of motoring. He argued that the "continuation book" falsely showed him to be the "first owner," and he asked if, in the event of sale, he was to enter the new owner's name (quite falsely) under "First change." To this the authority (determined not to yield) made the following extraordinary and irrelevant reply: "A registration book is not considered by the legal advisers to the Ministry of Transport to be a document of title, in so far as car registration is concerned. For this reason: The person using and keeping a particular vehicle may not be the legal owner. . . ." But the bureaucrat was beginning to be shaken by the steadfastness of his victim, and agreed to send back the old book for copying the extracts on the understanding that it was returned, and that the concession was not to be a precedent, because "if full registration books were normally retained by registered owners, they would *invariably* be sent to the Petroleum Department and taxation offices in error for the current issue." The owner replied by pointing out the clear instruction (No. 2) in the book itself to "keep it in a safe place, as if he lost it he might have trouble in disposing of the car." He admitted there might be errors where two books were held; but to say that those errors would be "invariable" was an insult to the public whom the authority existed to serve, and, in any case, errors could be simply prevented by so stamping the original on the issue of a "continuation" that no confusion could be made between them. In his next letter, the controller gave way, stamped the old book as suggested, and returned it for "keeps," and charged up all official, petty obstinacy, tyranny and specious arguments to two causes: (1) At the time of the original request his staff was "working long hours." (2) "Generally speaking, local authorities have to administer regulations issued by higher Ministerial circles." The documents in the case don't make cheerful reading. They reveal bureaucracy at its worst. An ill-founded dictatorial pronouncement, soon found to be unsustainable and contradictory. An attempt to bolster it up with legal jargon. Panic at the threat of "carrying the matter further." A last effort to save face at all costs by sheltering under "over-work" and "higher orders," and then a most grudging but complete surrender. No, it is not pretty; it is not uncommon and it is not helpful. It is a form of pinchbeck tyranny which every citizen should face and crush.

Television and Social Habits.—Always it has been the British habit to allow itself to be surprised by the revolutions effected by new scientific inventions. We never can consider in advance these implications and prepare ourselves to meet the shock. So it was with the internal-combustion engine. So it was with flying. We never prepared ourselves for a social and political-geographical revolution in our manners of life and thought. And now television—by comparison, at first sight a little, trivial entertainment item. But perhaps it may, too, create a revolution in social life as great as that which the safety bicycle brought about. Those who *have* thought about the implications of television are not yet seriously alarmed. It is not a rich man's pleasure only. That is true. It has produced some minor changes already; but television is in its infancy, still a toy. One day it will be (perhaps soon) as is a modern jet-fighter to Farman's biplane. And then what? I wonder what the public entertainers, cinemas, theatres, racecourse directorates and football directorates are thinking and doing about it, what steps they are taking to stand a possible shock? It is not a possibility to be light-heartedly dismissed, especially during the months of winter. When television is perfected, the effect on attendances at outdoor and indoor winter shows may indeed be revolutionary. Middle age and old age contribute handsomely to the gates to-day. But both these age groups would for choice prefer to be armchair, fireside critics and observers.

THE FUTURE OF TEMPLE BAR—THE FAMOUS CITY GATEWAY IN ITS PRESENT POSITION AT THE ENTRANCE TO THEOBALD'S PARK, CHESHUNT, WHERE IT HAS BEEN SINCE THE 80's OF THE LAST CENTURY: It is now suggested that the Bar, which formerly stood at the entrance to the City of London, by the Law Courts, should be returned to the City, and the matter was discussed at a recent meeting of London's Court of Common Council. Ludgate Hill is one of several suggested new sites, and it would be made practicable by the proposal under the Holford-Holden City of London plan to make Ludgate Hill a ceremonial approach to St. Paul's Cathedral, diverting main traffic farther east

Publicity—A Sense of Proportion.—Lord Harewood and Lord Milford Haven are still young men. If they are ambitious youths, they still have to win their spurs. I am sure they have made a good start, but they are not yet world figures, like Churchill or Smuts. And I dare say they are modest and would admit the truth of that. Recently both have done something, not altogether unique. They have married. Marriage is a romance for those concerned, but it is not an earth-shattering event. Many people have done it, and the world has not been stirred, though such part of humanity who may of heard of Mr. Jones's marriage to Miss Smith will probably have felt sympathetic. In short, marriage in itself is not enough to raise these young men and their brides to world-figure or film-star news-value. And I put in a plea, not as an old grumpy, but as an ordinary man with an average sense of proportion that we should have no more pars and no more photographs (for a period) of Lord and Lady H. and Lord and Lady M. H. And I hope and believe that Lord H. and Lord M. H. would endorse this plea. After all, privacy is rather attractive in the first year of marriage.

What Boys Read.—The information comes from a Shoreditch censor. In Shoreditch, at any rate, the fifteen- to eighteen-year-old boys are more interested in politics than adventure, in the present rather than in the past. *Robinson Crusoe* has sadly declined in popularity, *I Chose Freedom* is a best-seller still. (Did the Shoreditch voting reflect this love of freedom? Perhaps, it only affects the ages too young to vote.) Shoreditch youth has no use at all for Scott, Thackeray, Goldsmith, Ainsworth and Anthony Hope. Goldsmith, I can understand, and perhaps all the rest, save Hope. But *The Prisoner of Zenda*? And no one reads Dickens, nor most of Kipling, nor even Dumas. There again, I 'm not surprised generally, but I make an exception of *Monte Cristo* and *The Three Musketeers*. But, as we know, the boys are bored with adventures. But, oddly enough, Henty is gaining ground, and Verne and Buchan, Stevenson, Orczy, Mason, Wren and Sayers still draw. And those boys can't do without Zane Grey, Horler, Christie and the Tarzan books. Sherlock Holmes, Peter Cheyney, Bulldog Drummond and "The Saint" come first of all. Are these all political writers or economists? I can't make these boys out. I see no grounds for the political interest theory. These boys look to me, still as of old, to enjoy adventure. It is more a matter of the type, the age, the method of telling in that genre. I fancy boys will be boys—still as of old. Statistics prove anything or nothing. The Shoreditch tables are all too like the late election campaign, a mass of puzzling contradictions and very little light.

THE OLD STAGER

THE BUDAPEST ESPIONAGE TRIAL

The Familiar Pattern of Confessions

The Budapest spy trial, the latest in the series which came into world-wide prominence when Cardinal Mindzenty faced the court in 1949, has followed the familiar pattern of all trials behind the Iron Curtain, and the demeanour and reactions of Mr. Vogeler and Mr. Sanders, the American and British defendants, have indicated that they are both in full possession of their faculties. Their surprisingly full confessions were put before the court clearly and without hesitation. Both Sanders and Vogeler told of their tasks as saboteurs, and both indicated that the Standard Electric Company was part of a vast spy network in South-East Europe. Sanders named Colonel Kraft, the American Military Attaché in Budapest; Colonel Capron, the British Military Attaché, and Mr. Southby, the British Commercial Attaché, as his associates in espionage work.

THE DEFENDANTS ARE LINED UP IN THE BUDAPEST COURT AT THE START OF THE ESPIONAGE TRIAL: Standing left to right between guards are: Imre Geiger, the former manager of the Standard Electric Company in Hungary; Zoltan Rado, of the Hungarian Ministry of Light Industry; Mr. Robert Vogeler, a Lieut.-Commander in the United States Naval Reserve; Mr. Edgar Sanders, a British representative in Standard Electric, and Kelemen Domonkos; altogether there were seven defendants and the charges included espionage and sabotage in Hungary

ONE OF THE HUNGARIAN DEFENDANTS: Imre Geiger, manager of Standard Electric, facing the court in Budapest, the same court in which Cardinal Mindzenty stood trial in 1949. The judge and prosecutors were the same as in the Mindzenty trial

ROBERT VOGELER PLEADS GUILTY BEFORE THE COURT: Mr. Vogeler's evidence showed that there was a close connection between the Standard Electric Company in Hungary and the United States Intelligence Service. Mr. Vogeler, whose first evidence lasted three hours, gave a detailed account of what he described as his activities as an intelligence officer in Vienna and Budapest and "of the organisation of the United States Intelligence Service at the Vienna headquarters of espionage for South-East Europe." He declared that he went through a training school of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Chicago in 1942, where he was trained in espionage

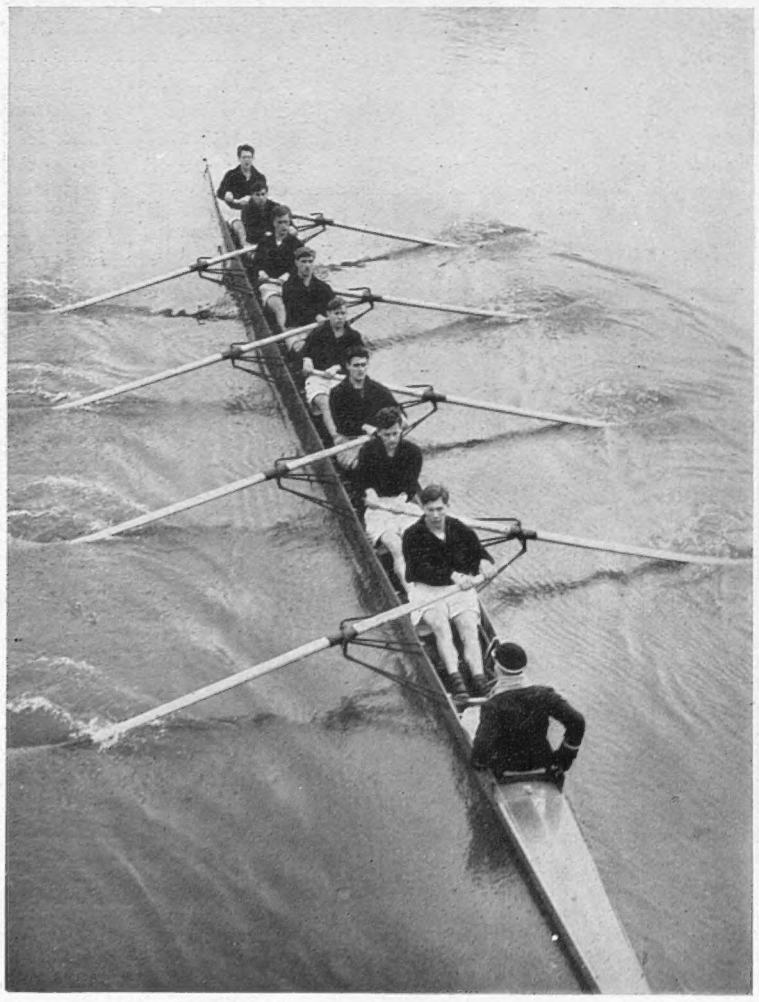
EDGAR SANDERS ADDRESSES THE MICROPHONE: Mr. Sanders, who is seen on the right, implicated several members of the British and American Legations in his opening evidence, and stated that the British Legation in Budapest was the main centre for espionage activities in Hungary. Mr. Sanders said that his work fell into two parts, one was the collection of regular reports about Soviet troops and Hungarian troops, and also information of an economic and political nature, and the other was to organise sabotage in the production of telephone equipment

THE TESTIMONY OF ROBERT VOGELER: Mr. Vogeler is on the right and his interpreter on the left. Seated in between them is Mr. Sanders. Mr. Vogeler told the court that his work for Standard Electric was mainly concerned with ensuring that production in Hungary was kept as low as possible, that exports from Hungary should not compete with other Standard Electric business in the hard-currency areas, and that equipment made for the Soviet Union and the "people's democracies" should be faulty. He went to Hungary for the first time in 1948

HERTFORD II ABOUT TO BUMP JESUS III IN DIVISION IV OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY TORPID RACES : The races, held amid the floodwaters of the Isis and in rough weather, placed a great strain on the crews, which on parts of the course were battling against floodwater. Owing to the conditions the course was shortened by approximately 130 yards, in order to minimise the risk of accidents. Fifty-one crews entered for the Torpids, one more than last year, and the races were held on six afternoons instead of on four as in 1949

RACING AMID the FLOODS

THE OXFORD TORPIDS ON THE ISIS AND THE BOAT RACE CREW IN ACTION AT RADLEY



THE OXFORD BOAT RACE CREW PRACTISING ON THE FLOODED THAMES AT RADLEY : A close-up of the eight during a row in floodwater conditions on the upper reaches of the Thames, where they started their initial training for the Boat Race. Davidge, who put up such a heroic performance in 1949, when Oxford were just beaten in "the race of the century," is again at stroke, but he has less-experienced oarsmen behind him than last year

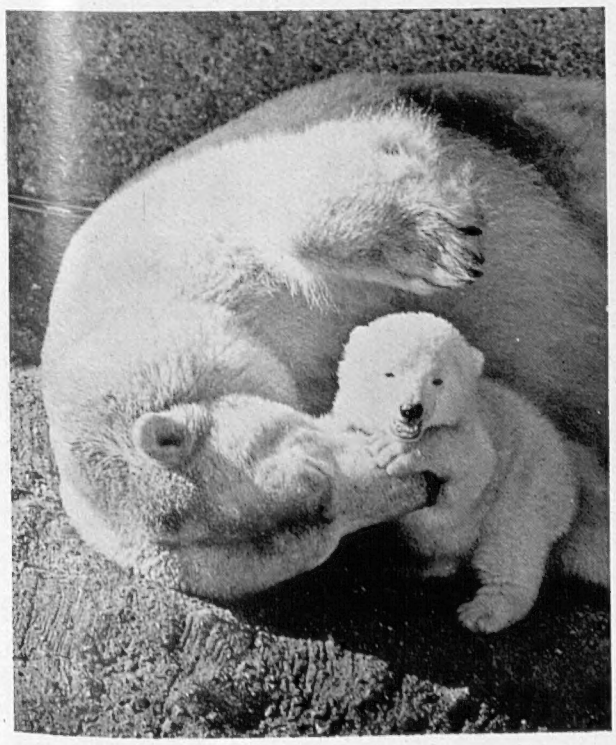
PADDLING ON THE FLOODWATERS : The Oxford Eight seen during a practice row at Radley. From cox to bow the members of the crew are : J. Hinchcliffe, G. G. C. Davidge, J. Clay, J. Hayes, G. Fisk, P. Gladstone, H. Renton, A. J. M. Cavanagh and J. G. C. Blacker

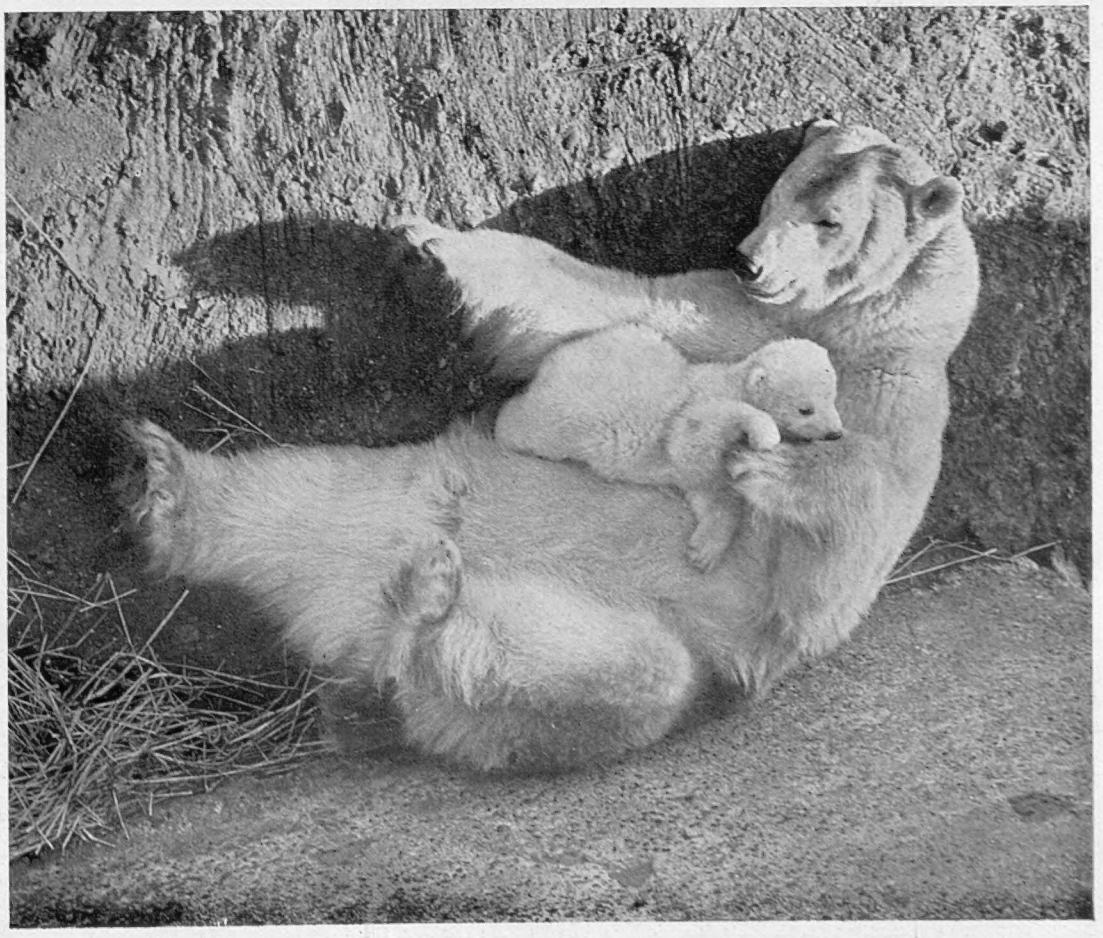
On left—A BRIDGE-TOP VIEW : The Oxford crew seen from above the parapet of Henley Bridge during a practice row. It is too early yet to see how well they are combining together or to make estimates of comparative form with the Cambridge crew

BRUMAS FACES THE CAMERA

First Pictures of the London Zoo's Polar Bear Cub

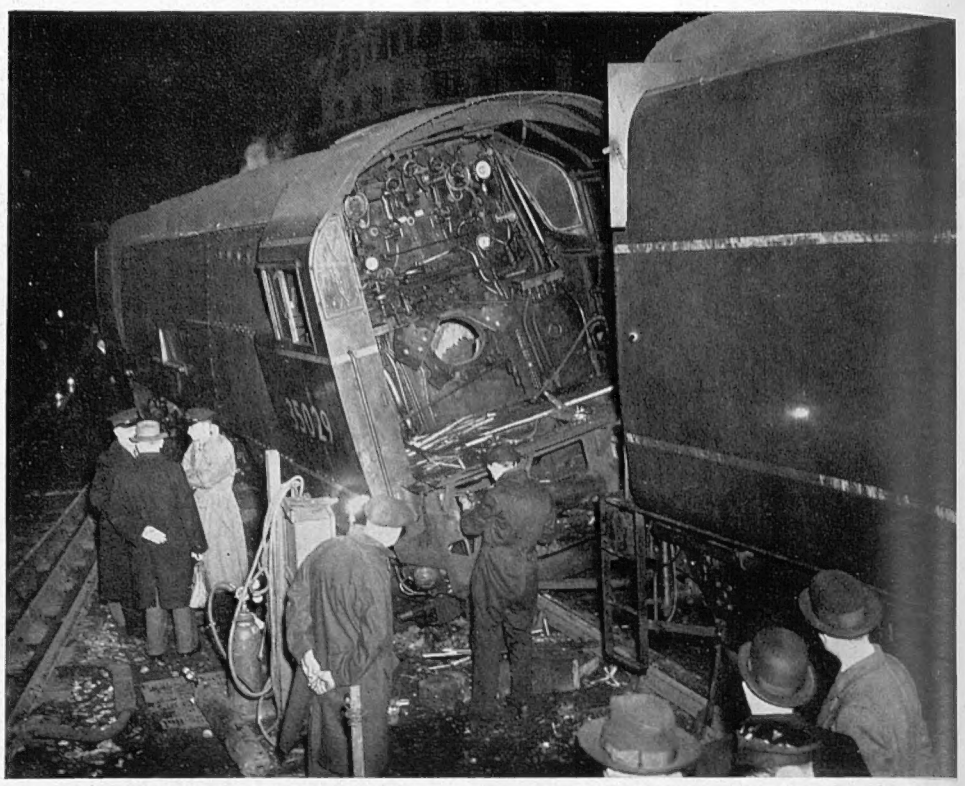
OUT IN THE MID-DAY SUN: Brumas, the London Zoo's three-month-old polar bear cub was allowed out for the first time in last week's pre-election sunshine. The daughter of Mischa and Ivy, she has already survived longer than any of the other twenty polar bears which have been born at Regent's Park. *Centre right*, the little bear is seen making an expedition and, *below right* exhausted, she has a sleep in Ivy's vast lap



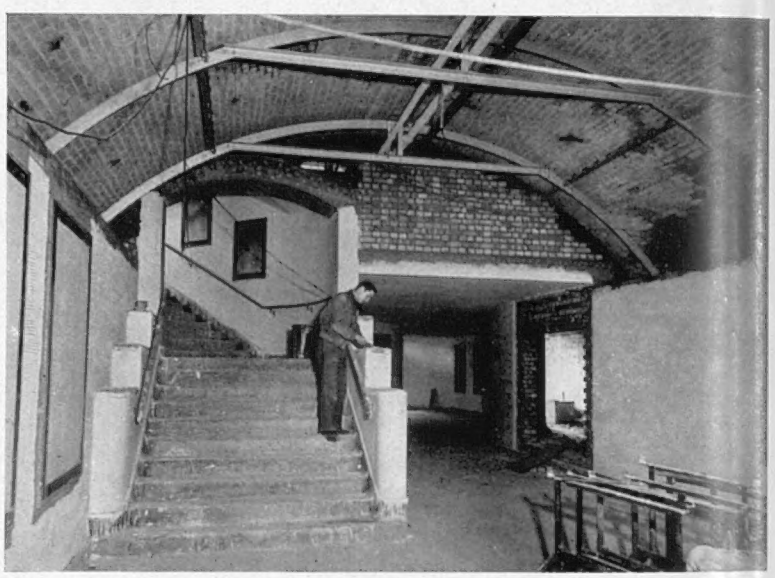


ON AND OFF THE LINE

A MISHAP IN THE SOUTHERN REGION; DEVELOPMENTS AT ELEPHANT AND CASTLE AND IN THE NORTH



THE LOCOMOTIVE DERAILMENT AT LONDON BRIDGE STATION: This mishap on the Southern Region of British Railways, in which nobody was hurt, caused considerable dislocation of traffic as Engine No. 35029 was derailed at the junction of two tracks. The picture *on the left* was taken on the afternoon of the accident, and that *on the right* in the evening when oxy-acetylene cutting apparatus was being brought into play to free the locomotive from its tender



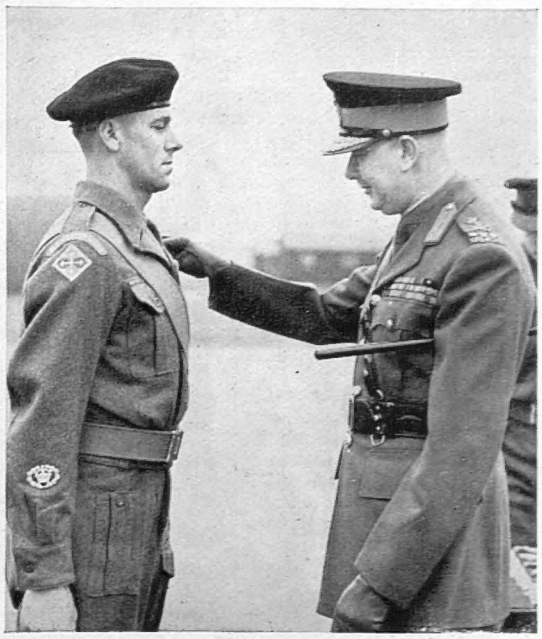
THE PREFAB STATION: THE REBUILT ELEPHANT AND CASTLE STATION, ON THE SOUTHERN REGION: *Left*—The main platforms and the waiting rooms, where prefabricated materials have been largely used to rebuild the bomb-damaged platform. *Right*—The entrance hall, in which pre-cast concrete has been employed

Prefabrication has now extended to railway stations. Elephant and Castle (Southern Region) Station, London, S.E., now being almost entirely rebuilt after extensive war damage, is the first station in the country to have platforms, waiting-rooms and booking offices erected from pre-cast concrete slabs. The Elephant and Castle Station, on the line from Holborn Viaduct to the Kent suburban stations, was badly damaged during the war, and the opportunity is being taken to combine war damage repairs with extensive modernisation. The work at the station has been going on for two years and is expected to take another year to finish. The long time being taken to complete the work is due to the fact that it can be carried out only during slack periods of the railway timetable The old wooden platforms have been ripped up and replaced by concrete and a new system of entrances to the station is being built.

A BIG PROJECT ON BRITISH RAILWAYS: *Left*—The excavated entrance at Dunford Bridge to the Woodhead new tunnel now under construction on the Manchester-Sheffield line, which is also in process of electrification. The steel structures for carrying the cables are shown in the picture *on the right*. These are adjustable to allow for track subsidence. The tunnel will be straight except for a 600-ft. length of 40-chain curve at the west end

The Manchester-Sheffield line is one of the chief arteries of communication between the North-West, the East Coast and the Midlands. It carries a heavy flow of mineral traffic from the South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire coalfield areas to the industrial North-West. It was originally estimated that the construction of the new tunnel would take from three to four years, and it is planned to complete it in 1952. The total cost of the complete scheme will be in the region of £2,800,000, which includes the laying of track and resignalling. The approaches have already been cleared and the driving of the "pilot" tunnel started from both Woodhead and Dunford Bridge At Woodhead the rock face was cleared in August 1949, and the tunnel has penetrated some 1,550 ft. This has involved the removal and disposal of about 12,000 tons of rock. At Dunford Bridge the position has been rather more difficult, the entrance to the tunnel being 60 ft. below ground-level. When excavation was completed, some 40,000 tons of soil and rock had been removed. Tunnel driving commenced in November 1949. Work is continuing day and night to complete the "pilot" tunnel, which will be about one-fifth of the sectional area of the final tunnel. When this has been driven it will be enlarged to the full excavation size, which is 31 ft. in breadth and 24 ft. in height. When the excavation is complete, the tunnel and ventilating shafts will be lined with concrete throughout and provision made for the installation of electrical overhead transmission equipment necessary for the electrification of this section of line which is also now in progress.

MILITARY OCCASIONS



THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER VISITS HIS REGIMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE END OF THE WAR: The Duke inspects the 1st Battalion, the Gloucestershire Regiment, at Roman Way Camp, Colchester. *On right*—Presenting Long Service and Good Conduct Medals to Orderly Room Q.M.S. Evans of South Wales. The Duke of Gloucester, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Gloucestershire Regiment, was attended by Major Michael Hawkins for his visit to the depot, which included a march-past

A BATTALION RETURNS AFTER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OVERSEAS: Lieut.-General Sir Reginald Denning, Colonel of the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment and G.O.C. Northern Ireland, greets Lieut.-Colonel D. Rossiter, M.B.E., Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion. 402 officers and men of the 1st Battalion the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment arrived at Southampton from Salonika last week on the *Empire Windrush*. A message from the Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the regiment, awaited them, in which Her Majesty, after referring to the battalion's twenty-five years of service overseas, said: "In the course of this notable tour of duty, which spans a generation, there have been many changes in the composition of the battalion, but the honour of the regiment has been equally sustained by all those in whose charge it has been." Colonel J. P. Tredennick, who took the battalion overseas in 1925; and Colonel H. S. Poinz, who joined the regiment in 1900, were also at Southampton to greet the battalion

THE 1ST BATTALION THE BEDFORDSHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE REGIMENT DISEMBARKS AT SOUTHAMPTON: The last two of the battalion's 25 years overseas were spent in Greece, and it was the last British unit to leave. During the war, the battalion served in North Africa and, later, with the Chindits

ROYAL ARTILLERY GUESTS ON THE "VANGUARD": Gunner Turner, Bombardier Atkins, Lance-Bombardier Dover and Bombardier Marchant receive instruction on one of the battleship's multiple quick-firing anti-aircraft guns. Fourteen officers and men of the Royal Artillery were invited by Captain C. V. Gladstone, captain of the *Vanguard*, to make an eighteen-day cruise to Gibraltar and back on the flagship of the Training Squadron. This was a result of the Fellowship inaugurated between H.M.S. *Vanguard* and the Royal Regiment of Artillery after correspondence between Captain Gladstone and the Master-Gunner, St. James's Park, Field-Marshal Lord Alanbrooke. The party, which was under the charge of Major A. D. Braithwaite, spent nine days at Gibraltar. On their return, the *Vanguard* had to anchor in the middle of Weymouth Bay instead of in Portland Roads because of the bad weather, and the troops departed down a rope ladder on to a waiting drifter

GENERAL BLANC ARRIVES AT VICTORIA: The new Chief of the French Army General Staff was visiting London for a meeting of the Western Union Mission. The C.I.G.S., Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, was there to meet him and a guard of honour was mounted by the Welsh Guards, which the General inspected

ILL-LUCK SURROUNDS the FRENCH PRESIDENTS

The Chequered Careers of the Men at the Élysée

By FERDINAND TUOHY

WHEN President Lebrun returned from his London State visit just eleven years ago, barely a week remained to him as France's Chief Magistrate. He was concluding his *septennat* without abnormality intervening, a thing only four other Presidents had done before him, out of thirteen.

Friends counselled M. Lebrun against risking a second term. Was there not the precedent of Jules Grévy, who lasted only two years of his renewed *septennat*? Albert Lebrun stood, won—and lasted only one year of his second term.

Verily have the vagaries and misfortunes of French Presidents been such that the odds are heavily against President Vincent Auriol finishing his term of office, which has nearly four years to run.

This is the more unfortunate because M. Auriol is showing himself to be an outstandingly able French President through most difficult years. Yet the record is there: murder and sudden death, scandal and dismissal, madness and captivity—all and more have contributed to the heavy toll among France's Heads of State.

The abnormality commenced with the very first President elected after the Franco-Prussian War. Thiers was forced into retirement after only two years, for showing too autocratic tendencies. Then came Marshal MacMahon, a brand of forerunner of Hindenburg: the beaten generalissimo and royalist elected to the headship of a republic.

MacMahon wanted to make the Comte de Chambord King of France, and very nearly did: but for the Comte insisting on the white Fleur-de-Lys standard instead of the Tricolour the change-over must have taken place. So near a thing was it, that Premier Gambetta told MacMahon that he would either have to conform or get out ("*se soumettre ou se demettre*"). The soldier-President continued to work for the *Ancien Régime* and was sacked.

Next, Jules Grévy weathered a first term safely, only to come a sorry cropper in a second. He had as secretary his son-in-law, Daniel Wilson, who was arraigned for the sale of honours. It was in the days of "Paname" and splendiferous decorations, days which led to the great Panama Scandal and to this weak President withdrawing in disgrace. His last landau exit from the Élysée devolved to shouts of "Paname!"

The next casualty was a really curious one. The refined, distinguished and rather precious Casimir-Perier decided after six months that he was not only shown a lack of consideration at the Élysée, but the job was terribly boring. So he took his hat in the hall and departed. Perhaps the Polish in "Casimir" had something to do with it.

And then came assassination. As he was driving to the Lyons Opera, in 1894, President Sadi-Carnot was stabbed to death by an Italian anarchist. Leading Frenchmen have told me that Sadi-Carnot might have been a great President (he had only begun). He is also remembered as "the greatest gentleman to sit in the Élysée," to which definition his fine, bearded looks no doubt contributed.

Now it was the turn of mystery, racy, Gallic mystery, with *cherchez la femme* sticking out a morsel. Does she still live? I believe so. At any rate, the strongly nationalistic Félix Faure was stricken in his rooms at the Élysée, in circumstances which were fertile of fruity legend. He had a staged death-bed the same evening, and with him went the last fashionable President *en redingote* of the nineteenth century.

During a spell of twenty-eight years, six successive Presidents had come to grief in one way or another. Those who had the say in such matters decided to change the type of candidate. Quite clearly candidates chosen from the *haut monde* (Society), if not from the aristocracy, were not delivering the goods. Very well, these selectors would turn to the bourgeois, if not to the peasant stock of France; and so it came about that Émile Loubet entered the Élysée. There he was thought to look very cheap. But the change-over was to prove a success for long years ahead.

The Presidency enjoyed a run of normality for twenty-one years. Loubet, the wrinkled old *rentier* of Montélimar; Failières, the paunchy, white-whiskered, silk-hatted landowner from Quercy, and last President of the "good old days" ("*douceur de vivre*"); and Raymond Poincaré, the frigid lawyer of integrity from Lorraine, were all that Presidents should be both in the protocol sense and in their private lives.

Not that Poincaré had what can be called a precisely normal ending to his tenure as Chief Magistrate, since he himself was to relate how Clémenceau had kept him as "the prisoner of the Élysée" from 1917 to 1919. The "Tiger" could not abide the bloodless stickler for *ordre*, and used to delight to make a pun on the word, here unprintable.

Clémenceau was one of the three big presidential might-have-beens (the others, Briand and De Gaulle). He was beaten into withdrawing his candidature by Paul Deschanel who, in 1920, re-ushered abnormality to the Élysée.

This immaculately-dressed President began by wandering all over Paris, developed a fancy for tree-climbing, and in course of time extended this to a hankering to walk on the lake at Rambouillet. Every attempt was made to hush things up, but when the President one night "fell" from his special train, near Dijon, it was the end. I saw his coach the same day and the poor man had had to squeeze under a heavy brass bar in order to "fall" out. The President wasn't missed until hours later, by which time he had walked several miles along the permanent way, uninjured, though the train had been going at 30 m.p.h., and in his pyjamas, in December. "I am the President of the Republic," he announced to a level-crossing keeper. "All right, have a blanket," stalled that worthy, who rang the police, thinking he had a lunatic on hand. Which, in fact, he had.

It was the stormy, chaotic, post-war period, and the electoral body—Senate and Chamber foregathering at Versailles in the guise of a National Assembly—decided that a strong man was wanted as Chief Magistrate, and Alexandre Millerand was chosen. It was hoped that his socialist past would reassure the Left, but socialists have their dictatorial impulses, not to say obsessions, and it was the latter of these two with Alexandre.

Millerand promptly set about dictating through the "Horizon-Blue" Chamber, the parliament of uniforms that had been returned in a blind fervour after the Armistice, and he went on at it until a Left Government came into office in 1924—and immediately showed him the door.

Millerand died a poor, broken-down lawyer at Versailles. French Presidents get no pensions. The job is all prestige. The President is the only man in France who is definitely honoured. The French honour themselves in him, and so preserve him from insult and libel. There's little power at the Élysée, unless someone like the present incumbent finds a means of exerting it. The President's most important duty is to select the right man to form a Government at each successive crisis.

Yet this is a major affair in itself, since there were 105 different Governments during the sixty-eight years of the Third Republic, and—speaking under correction—this average is being maintained in the Fourth.

For the rest, French Presidents must have tact and presence. They must be above the political turmoil, and fair-minded and supple. Their private lives must be above reproach and their health must be good. They have to be always on call to represent France at ceremonial and official occasions, even if it means wearing that sartorial hades and monstrosity—a top-hat and "tails" in the burning, blinding sunshine of the Midi.

Next on the list, smiling little "Gastounet" Doumergue from the Mediterranean, lasted his full seven years. He had his jolts: his remains the record for Premier-choosing—fifteen between 1924 and 1931. But those were the most smiling years Europe has had since "the good old days."

But then the same old round restarted. The venerable Paul Doumer was shot to death at a book show by a drink-crazed Russian, when only in the second year of his term.

A ninth President in thirteen, fated not to finish his term! Albert Lebrun did finish his *septennat*. But, fifteen months after he had embarked on a second term, France was overwhelmed and her President made captive. M. Lebrun remained under guard at his Lorraine village of Mercy-le-Haut during most of the late war and, directly De Gaulle entered Paris, resigned his Chief Magistracy into the General's hands.

General De Gaulle served as Provisional President, 1944-45, but, finding the post of President too impotent ("I decline to preside impotently over the impotence of the State"), refused to be confirmed in it. He holds that a French President should be able to initiate legislation, like an American President and, in addition, wield real executive authority.

So thus came Auriol, the socialist. Will he last out? He was lately a grievously sick man. At the crisis of his illness, he heard out in silence a six-minute harangue from Thorez, the Communist leader It was reminiscent of Gottwald and Benes. But Auriol is up and doing again. The other day, in Paris, he lashed the world Press for its passion for "sensational" or "catastrophic" news.

The week before, the President initiated Government measures against the Communist campaign to sabotage military policy. Such action is unprecedented in a French President, and approaches the Gaullist conception of his powers. But the General wants it laid down hard and fast. He may be right up to a point, since the Élysée doesn't often get an Auriol. We have seen that. In this case, Madame la Présidente, from Toulouse, is quite a person, too, in her own right.

THE COMMUNISTS PREPARE FOR A GENERAL ELECTION IN FRANCE: M. Maurice Thorez (left), Secretary-General of the Communist Party in France, and M. Marcel Cachin, doyen of French Communists, seated in the reviewing stand during a recent Communist parade from the Place de la Bastille to the Place de la République. The French Communist Party is now about to launch its biggest effort since the war to gain power in France

GENERAL CHARLES DE GAULLE, PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF FRANCE AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR: De Gaulle, who is seen in this picture speaking at a recent political demonstration at the Vélodrome d'Hiver, Paris, refused to be confirmed in his office as he believes that a President of France should have considerably wider powers more in keeping with those of a President of the United States

FRENCH POLITICAL PERMUTATIONS

M. BIDAULT WITHOUT THE SOCIALISTS: DE GAULLE CALLS FOR A NEW REGIME

While the hardy Briton was impelled towards the polls in February and electioneering took place during the wettest of weather, the French also contemplated an election, but even with the defection of the Socialists from Bidault's Government, it seemed that no party was anxious yet awhile to be the prime cause of precipitating the voting. The French have a traditional belief in warm-weather elections, in part perhaps because they see the sheer impossibility of collecting ballot-boxes in the heart of Savoy or in the remoter districts of the Central Massif in the midst of winter.

On many sides in France there would seem to be a call for a change of regime, and loudest of these voices, needless to say, is that of General Charles de Gaulle who, reacting shrewdly to the latest blow which has befallen the Bidault Government, has stepped out into the open to demand the end of all these party permutations and combinations which have been going on for so long. Speaking the other day at the Velodrome d'Hiver in Paris de Gaulle told his hearers that he had no idea of entering any party combination. He declared that by democratic means there must be brought about a change in the regime which, "drifting on an ocean of perils, can bring forth from within itself nothing but a Parliament without faith or hope and governments without character or credit."

M. BIDAULT WINS THE FIRST ROUND OF HIS BATTLE FOR POLITICAL SURVIVAL: The French Premier (centre) with Ministers who filled the gap in his administration following the defection of the Socialists. On the left are M. Chastellain, an Independent Deputy, who goes to the Ministry of Works; M. Brune, a Radical Senator, who becomes Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, and M. Queuille, the Radical leader, who took over the intensely difficult post of Minister of the Interior. On the right are M. Bacon, who belongs to the M.R.P., M. Bidault's own party, M. Louvel, also M.R.P., and M. Andre Colin, Secretary of State. When this picture was taken M. Bidault had just won approval for his new Cabinet, but it was approval by default, those abstaining from voting being almost as numerous as those who voted. On all sides it was being said that M. Bidault's days as Premier were numbered

CHARLES DE GAULLE AGAIN COMES OUT INTO THE OPEN AS THE REGIME IN FRANCE BEGINS TO TOTTER: The leader of the Rally of the French People striking a characteristic attitude during his speech at the Velodrome d'Hiver, the largest covered-in meeting-place in Paris. De Gaulle, who demands a change of regime, called upon the French people to cast off the lingering humiliation of the 1940 defeat and to take heart from the evidence of their country's recovered vitality

WAR VETERANS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE THE HOME OF THE FRENCH PREMIER: This great gathering, freely interspersed with members of the gendarmerie, took place outside the Hotel Matignon, Paris. The veterans are clamouring for bigger pensions, and a great part of the French public is in sympathy with their demand, as frequent devaluations of the franc have brought down to infinitesimal proportions all the pensions which were granted after the First World War

ARDENT GAULLISTS APPLAUD THE GENERAL: Members of the audience at the Velodrome d'Hiver, Paris, clapping enthusiastically as de Gaulle concluded his speech in which he called for a change of regime

STREET SCENE IN DUBLIN

Slum Clearance in the Irish Capital

TWO DUBLIN STREET SCENES BEFORE THE DEMOLITION SQUADS GET TO WORK: *On left*—The fittest survive to play round the semi-derelict buildings. *Right*—Tenement houses in Cumberland Street, which is due for clearing. Many of these old houses were in a bad state before the war. The final blow was struck when landmines fell in North Strand and Summerhill. A square mile of slums were laid waste and the foundations of buildings well beyond that area were affected

THE NEW DUBLIN ARISES: The children now have their quadrangle instead of the mean streets to play in, but, as yet, only a small proportion can be rehoused. As in Britain, good balconies are a feature of the new buildings

TYPICAL OF THE OLD DUBLIN: The lower floor of this old tenement house in Waterford Street has been condemned and is boarded up, but, in spite of this, families still live on the upper floors. The girl sitting on the steps makes her living by selling oranges. The scene offers a striking comparison with the clean new buildings in the pictures left and below left

A NEW BLOCK IN CORPORATION STREET: The clean lines of the new apartment buildings have changed the face of this part of Dublin. The rooms are light and airy, and many of their tenants are enjoying proper sanitary arrangements for the first time

Ireland's Local Government Department has placed a check on the erection of cinemas, ball-rooms and other luxury projects until the slums in some of the Republic's main cities have been cleared and rebuilt. The most urgent need for improvement is in Dublin. In some sectors of the Irish capital several families live on different floors in the crumbling Georgian mansions which are slowly disintegrating. The biggest obstacle to rapid progress in the Government rehousing drive is the dearth of skilled building labour. Local Government scouts are now touring Britain to bring building operatives back to their homeland, and many who came to England during and after the war are yielding to the appeal, which is backed by the Irish Premier. Meanwhile, in Dublin, noisome slum dwellings are gradually being ousted by modern apartment blocks. Potentially dangerous tenements have been condemned and tenants have been evacuated to healthier quarters while the face of the city's back-streets changes to a modern concept. Already several big blocks of flats have been completed.

THE BATTLE IN THE MALAYAN SWAMP COUNTRY STILL GOES ON: Waist-deep in muddy water, men of G Company of the 2nd Battalion of the Scots Guards advance through typically difficult terrain during an anti-guerilla operation in Pahang. Local terrorist concentrations are by no means eliminated in Malaya, and at a recent Press Conference in Singapore, General Sir John Harding, the British Commander-in-Chief, said that more troops were needed to break the resistance of the guerillas. What is particularly needed, he says, is an armoured fighting vehicle adapted to the needs of jungle warfare

IN TROUBLED SOUTH-EAST ASIA

GUERILLA WARFARE IN MALAYA AND INDONESIA; THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS ATTACK FROM THE AIR

IN THE PATH OF THE BANDIT FIRE-RAISERS: Homes laid low at Simpang Tiga, in the Sitiawan area of Malaya, where eighty Communist guerillas set fire to the township, rendering 1,000 people homeless. The High Commissioner, Sir Henry Gurney, visited Simpang Tiga after the fire and assured the people that their homes would be rebuilt at the Government's expense

THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE PAYS A VISIT TO JAKARTA: Dr. Phillip Jessup (right) seen with the Premier of the Indonesian Republic, Dr. Mohammed Hattà, at a recent meeting. Dr. Jessup called at Jakarta when en route to Bangkok in order to attend a conference of American envoys in the Far East. He found conditions in Jakarta disturbed, the leader of the new Indonesian Republic regarding the future with considerable uncertainty in view of the marauding tactics of Westerling and his irregulars

CAPTAIN "TURK" WESTERLING'S RENEGADES STRIKE AGAIN: Members of the so-called "Army of the Heavenly Host," the irregulars commanded by Westerling, a former officer of the Dutch Army who has taken to the Javanese hills with 10,000 followers, seen during a recent raid on a town near Bandoeng. The photographer took this picture just after the raiders had killed two men who had been riding through the town on bicycles. Westerling's raiders made their getaway in the jeep which is seen parked on the right. Of recent weeks they have been striking here, there and everywhere in Western Java, interfering as much as possible with the island's road communications

EVIDENCE THAT THE CHINESE NATIONALISTS STILL HAVE SOME REMAINING STRIKING POWER ON THE MAINLAND OF CHINA: These two pictures were taken at Shumchun, China, just across the border from the Leased Territories of the British Colony of Hong Kong, after planes identified as Nationalist F 51's had bombed the Communist-held town. Bombs struck a fuel dump, destroying 1,800 drums of oil and petrol. The Hong Kong police reported that seven Chinese lost their lives

A CROSS-SECTION OF THE WORLD'S NEWS

A Survey of Foreign Events in Pictures

ROCKET MAIL IN THE UNITED STATES: Rockets being prepared for launching from the shores of Searle Lake, California, during an annual test held by the Rocket Research Institute, a civilian body interested in the development of the rocket post. The four rockets each landed a mile from their starting-point at the town of Trona. A total of 600 letters packed in the fins of the rockets was subsequently forwarded by air-mail service. Each letter carried a cachet and a Wright Brothers air-mail stamp. The idea of a rocket post has long been advocated for isolated areas in America, but it is probable that the helicopter now supersedes it

ONE OF THE POSTAL ROCKETS, CARRYING ABOUT 150 LETTERS IN ITS FINS, STARTS ITS FLIGHT: The rocket, with a trail of smoke in its wake, is fired from Searle Lake, California, by members of the Rocket Research Institute of the United States. As the exhaust gas of each rocket is burnt out shortly after the take-off, flares are used to trace the course of the rockets

COMMUNISTS MOURN THEIR LOST COMRADES IN A MARCH THROUGH THE STREETS OF MILAN: The six victims of the shooting at Modena in January, when the Italian police opened fire on hundreds of Communists who stormed the gates of a factory from which they had been discharged, were honoured by their comrades in this procession through the streets of the industrial capital of the north. The photographs of the victims, each draped in black, were carried on a board in front of the procession, and later they were hung in a place of honour in the trade union headquarters. Alongside them were pictures of a number of Italian workers who fought in the underground movement against the Italian Fascists and the Germans

MARSHAL TITO CASTS HIS VOTE: The leader of the Yugoslav State taking part in recent elections in Belgrade, a curtain-raiser for the nation-wide elections which are to take place in Yugoslavia during March. Yugoslavia has not been to the polls for four years. Parliament, which elects the Presidium for a period of four years, is composed of two chambers, the Federal Assembly and the House of the Peoples (175 members). The President of the Presidium (Marshal Tito) is the head of the State. He is assisted by six Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and thirty members of the National Assembly. The Constitution enfranchises women and separates Church and State

WORK STARTS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF "THE FAROUK THE FIRST" CANAL, WHICH WILL SPEED UP THE PASSAGE OF TRAFFIC THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL, OF WHICH IT WILL FORM A PART: *Left*—Soil dredged from the new "cut" is put into barges and then rendered fluid by a strong flow of water. The pipe seen in the centre of the picture then sucks up the fluid and, carrying it over a road and railway tracks, deposits it on the desert land on the west side of the Suez. *Right*—Native workers using shovels to supplement the work of machines engaged in making the new canal. The canal will be six miles long and will enable ships in the Suez Canal to pass without having to stop

WIDENING THE PROMENADE DES ANGLAIS AT NICE: Men engaged in shaping granite blocks during reconstruction at the famous Riviera resort. The new promenade, over a distance of a mile and a half, will be 140 ft. wide and will have two 35-ft.-wide traffic lanes, separated by a garden strip, a sidewalk and a bridle path. Nice, the capital of the Alpes Maritimes, was occupied by the Italians in November 1942 and the Germans took over from them in August 1943. When the United States 7th Army liberated Nice in August 1944, it was found to be little damaged except in the harbour area

A CEREMONIAL OCCASION IN UGANDA: Her Highness the Nabagereke, wife of the Kabaka of Buganda, is seen about to enter her car after attending an investiture by the Governor of Uganda, Sir John Hall, on the sports ground at Kampala. His Highness the Kabaka of Buganda is seen standing second from left, and saluting, is Mr. R. M. Bere, the senior Assistant Resident

WHERE EAST AND WEST GERMANY COME FACE TO FACE: A member of the People's Police of the German East Zone patrolling a path on the borderland near Helmstedt, the check-point where Berlin-bound convoys have so often been held up through Russian intransigeance

A PROTEST RALLY IN ONE OF THE SQUARES OF BONN, THE WEST GERMAN FEDERAL CAPITAL: Some 4,000 cars and lorries jammed the streets when their owners staged a demonstration against the high price of petrol. Vehicles carried slogans, declaring: "Unemployment is the result of petrol price increases." There are now 1,700,000 unemployed in Western Germany

THE LORD MAYOR OF WEST BERLIN ADDRESSES A MASS RALLY IN THE FRENCH SECTOR OF THE CITY: *Left*—Herr Ernst Reuter on the rostrum during his fighting speech in which he told a crowd of 10,000 Western Berliners, who rallied at a meeting near the Russian sector border, that the threatened putsch into West Berlin by youths of East Berlin would be resisted to the uttermost. Through loudspeakers, which were directed towards the Russian Sector, Herr Reuter concluded by saying: "So long as we are not permitted to speak in East Berlin we will not grant the Communist agents any freedom in Western Berlin." *Right*—A general view of the meeting. Berliners stood in rain and sleet to listen to their Lord Mayor and they applauded him enthusiastically. It appears that the threat to storm West Berlin has been made in the columns of *Junge Welt*, the Communist youth magazine published in the Eastern sector, and the assault is timed for Whit Monday

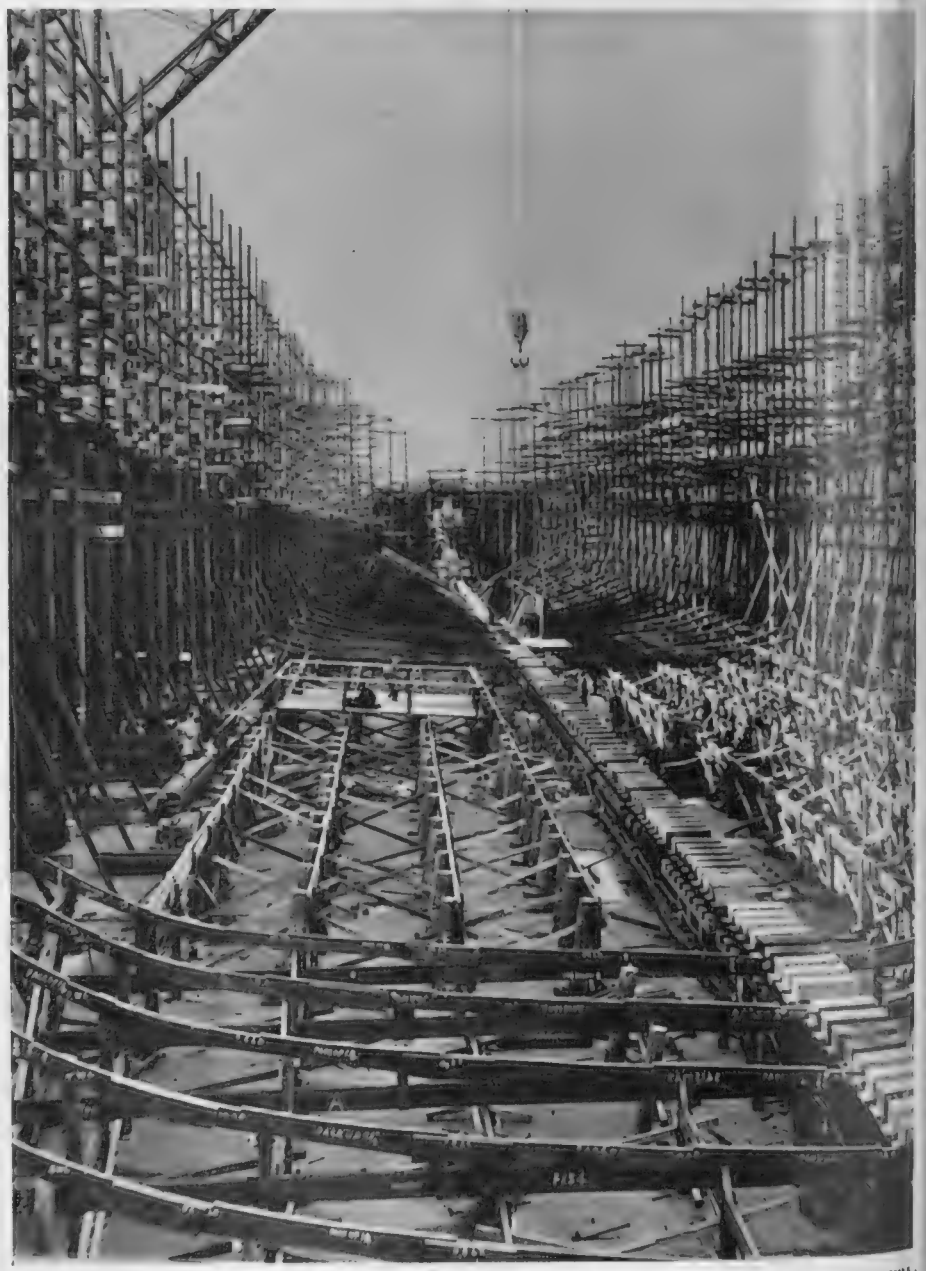
NEW AMERICAN CRAFT ON SEA AND IN THE AIR

A TRANSPORT PLANE WITH A DETACHABLE FUSELAGE: An artist's impression of the new Fairchild XC 120 Pack-plane. This new development of the Fairchild Packet may revolutionise cargo-carrying. The entire lower section of the fuselage is detachable, and can be deposited at an airfield, when the plane can fly off again to pick up another fuselage, already loaded with goods or passengers

On the left and below left are two examples of American experiments in civil and service aviation. The Fairchild XC 120 Pack-plane is an ingenious method for rapidly loading transport aircraft. The wings, power unit and crew space form one section of the plane, the remainder of the fuselage being, in effect, a detachable container. Containers can be fitted out as passenger compartments or as various kinds of cargo holds. Much time can be saved by the parent plane depositing one container and picking up another immediately because it has been pre-loaded. The Northrop Raider C 125 is fitted with a number of devices for Arctic rescue operations. It has wheel-skis with which it can land either on snow or on normal runways, and a unique rear ramp door permits cargo to be loaded with rapidity. 23 Raiders are being built, of which 13 will be used for Arctic rescue operations. 8,000 lb. of cargo, 32 passengers or 20 litter patients can be carried by the new plane

AN ARCTIC RESCUE PLANE: This Northrop Raider C 125 light assault transport carries the yellow-orange markings which identify it as a U.S. Air Force rescue aircraft. It is the first machine ever to be built for the specific purpose of retrieving men and equipment trapped in Arctic regions

A CRASH IN YUKON TERRITORY: The kind of work for which the Northrop Raider is designed is exemplified in the above picture of a U.S. Air Force C 47 which crash-landed on a 7,000-ft. snow-capped mountain about 100 miles north-west of Whitehorse, Yukon Territory. It was the second plane to crash in eight days while taking part in a search for the C 54 which had been missing for thirteen days with forty-four people on board. All twelve aboard the C 47 survived, but three were injured. The arrow points to a group of survivors. To the right of them, a cross in the snow is an Air Force indicator meaning: "Grounded, cannot proceed"



LAYING THE KEEL OF AMERICA'S BIGGEST PASSENGER LINER AT NEWPORT NEWS, IN VIRGINIA: A 170-ton crane moves a part of the 55-ton keel into position. The 980-ft.-long vessel should be completed by 1952, and will compete with the Queens for Atlantic laurels. The largest merchant ship ever made in or for the United States had its official beginning on February 8. It is being built for the United States Lines, and the Maritime Commission. The Government, through the Maritime Commission's ship construction subsidy administration, are putting up some £17,000,000 out of the estimated cost of the super-liner of £25,000,000. The *United States*—as it has been tentatively named—has been designed by William Francis Gibbs, and has been in preparation for six years. She will be registered at about 48,000 gross tons. The U.S. Navy has considerable interest in the ship, which will embody some new defence features

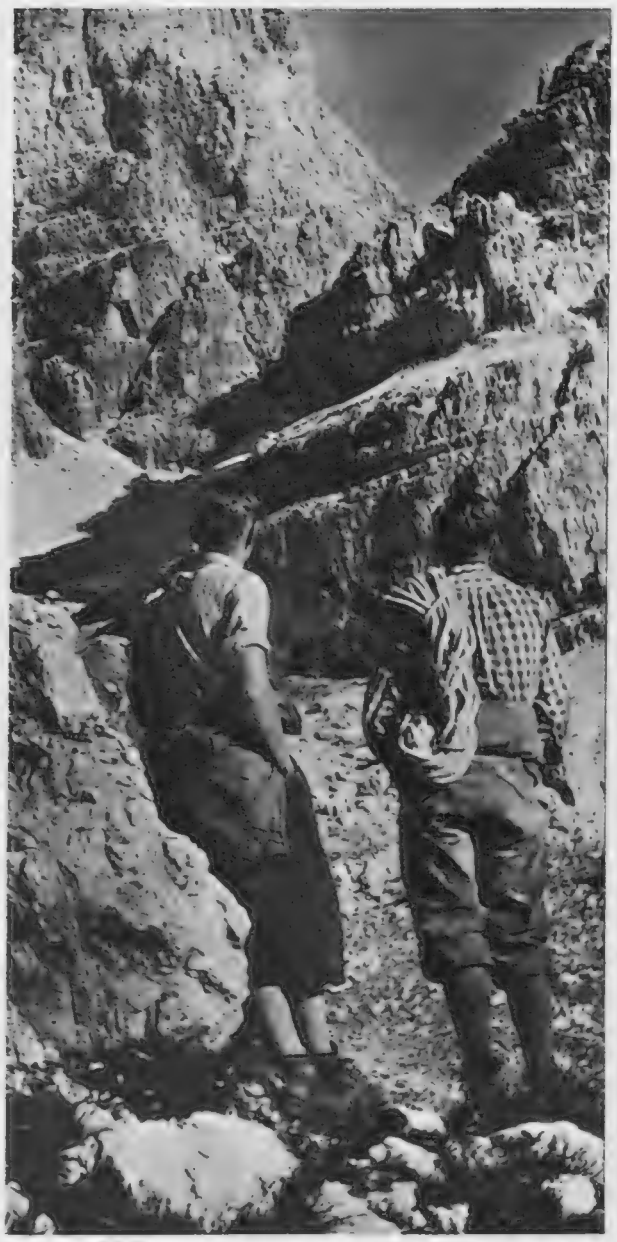
THE U.S. NAVY'S TROOP-CARRYING SUBMARINE "PERCH" ENTERS WOMEN'S BAY AT THE NAVAL OPERATIONS BASE AT KODIAK, ALASKA: The *Perch* is a fleet-type submarine of the Balao class, which was converted to a troop transport at the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The large cylindrical chamber abaft the conning-tower on the after deck is a water-tight storage space for the stowage of amphibious landing equipment. Another Balao-class submarine, the U.S.S. *Sealion*, has been similarly altered at the San Francisco Naval Yard. The Balao class has become virtually the standard U.S. Navy submarine. The vessels are of all-welded construction, with good accommodation including separate messing and sleeping apartments. Besides the *Perch* and the *Sealion*, which have been fitted each to carry 160 troops; the *Cusk* has been experimentally armed with guided missiles; the *Barbero* equipped to carry cargo; the *Tigrone* and *Burrfish* modified for radar picket duties with reduced armament; the *Catfish* and *Cobbler* converted to "guppy-schnorkel"; the *Tiru* was altered during construction for higher submerged speed; and the *Baya* equipped for electronic experiments

On right—THE "MISSOURI" GOES THROUGH DOCK TRIALS AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA: America's only active battleship, which went aground at Thimble Shoals in Hampton Roads off the coast of Virginia, underwent trials to test the engines which were fouled with mud and sand when she went aground

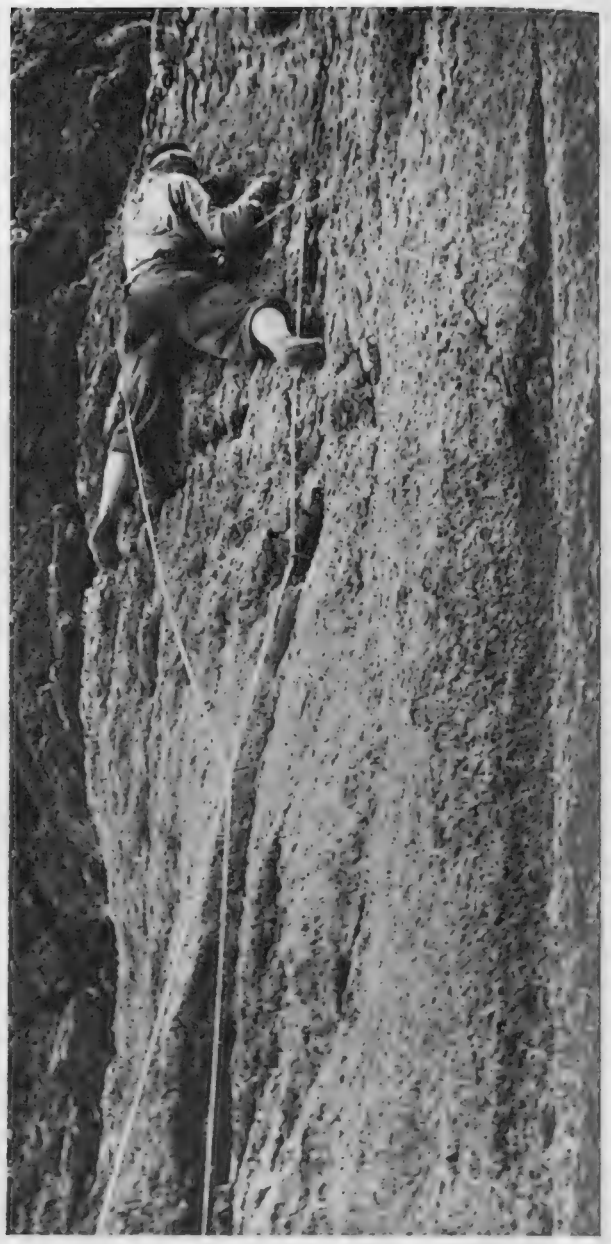
SCALING THE GUGLIA DI BRENTA

THE ASCENT OF A 3,000-FT. PINNACLE IN THE DOLOMITES

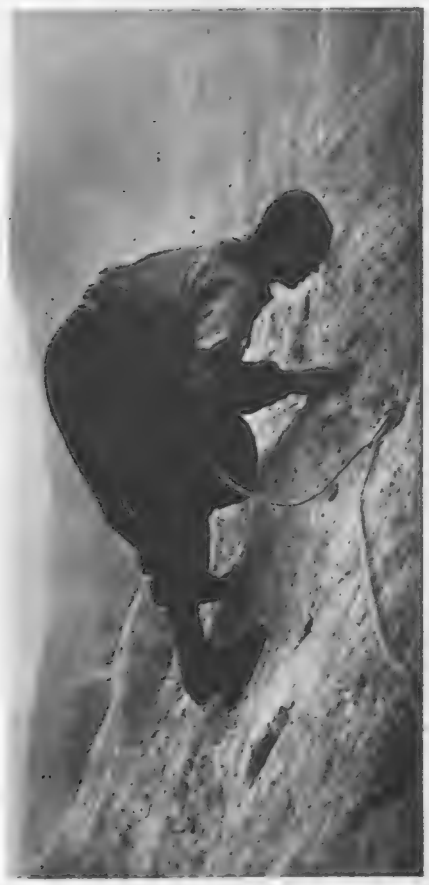
THE PATH TO VICTORY: The dotted lines in this picture show the route by which two climbers recently accomplished the ascent of the 3,000-ft. Guglia di Brenta, a mighty pinnacle of the Dolomites



CONTEMPLATING THE TASK AHEAD: The two climbers, equipped with stout ropes and other gear, stand at the foot of the final pinnacle, the rocky citadel which they plan to assault. For more than eight hours they had to battle with the treacherous smoothness of the rock



THE CLIMBER STICKS TO THE VERTICAL WALL LIKE A FLY: In hauling the body sideways and upwards the movements must be slow and sure. Two safety ropes are in action, as any mistake here would lead to both climbers being plunged to death hundreds of feet below

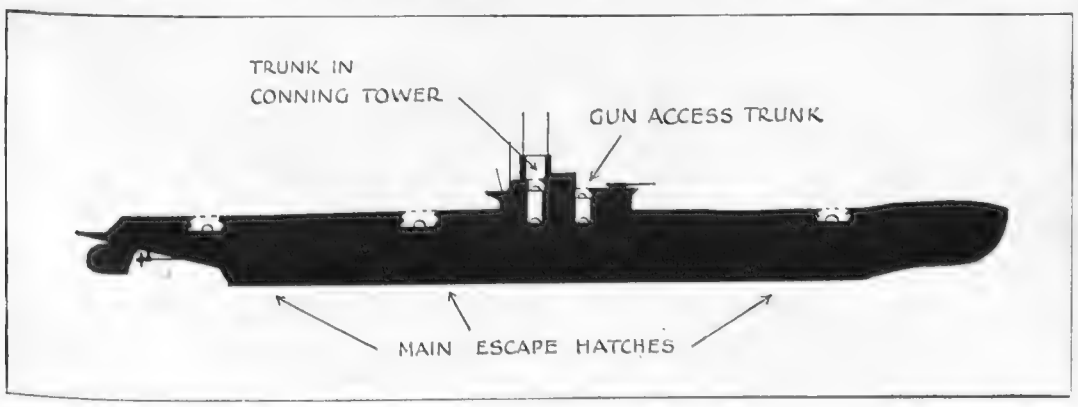


THE FINAL STEPS TO VICTORY: Here the climbers are seen on the almost vertical face of the east wall of the pinnacle. At this stage the rocks afford a good foothold, and are indeed almost perfect for climbing. Lower down the pinnacle the rock face is slippery. It is absolutely essential for the climbers to wear felt-soled boots. In the picture *on the right*, their conquest complete, the climbers are seen at the summit of the pinnacle of the Guglia di Brenta

The Dolomites are popular ground for the rock-climber, the devotee of that particular branch of mountaineering which demands so many individual skills. Not far from Lake Garda, soaring into the blue of the North Italian sky, is the great rock pinnacle of the Guglia di Brenta, which has tested many an experienced rock-climbing team in the present century, and has, indeed, defied the majority of assaults, its perpendicular ramparts turning back all but the most efficient and experienced mountaineers. These unique photographs taken by the two climbers illustrate a recent perilous ascent on the smooth eastern face of the Guglia, which rises bolt upright from the moraines of the Massodikare. For more than eight hours the adventurous climbers made their way up the east wall. Everything depended on perfect footwork and balance, the strength of arms and legs working in perfect co-ordination, and, indeed, on perfect physical fitness. In all rock-climbing, smooth, unhurried movement is the ideal, but on the Guglia di Brenta it is absolutely vital. How the climbers at the same time contrived to take this series of photographs is a tribute at once to their skill and their daring. The climbers chose a perfect day for their assault. There was no strong wind, which frequently blows in the Dolomites, to upset their balance, and the pinnacle had had no recent rain upon it, allowing their felt-soled boots to obtain a maximum hold on the rock.

IN THE NEW SUBMARINE ESCAPE SUIT: Chief Petty Officer Watson wearing an inflatable suit of rubberised nylon and Davis escape breathing apparatus when entering the practice escape hatch at the H.M.S. *Dolphin* Training Establishment at Portsmouth during a recent demonstration of the latest methods of escaping from submarines. In actual practice the bottom of the twill escape trunk seen in this picture is immersed in the water when an escape is made from a submarine. The trunk, which is normally kept folded concertina-wise around the circular escape hatch, is released and then secured firmly in position by four rigid stays

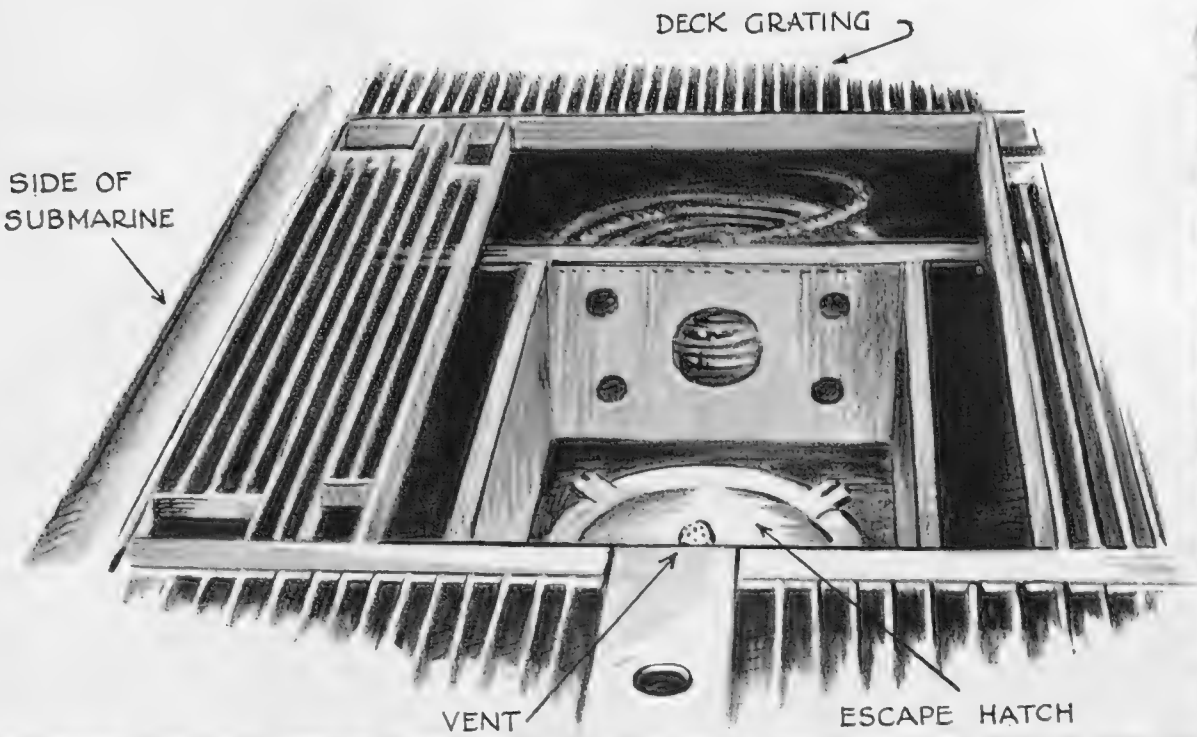
The disaster to H.M.S. *Truculent* in the estuary of the Thames, and the tragic loss of life which followed, despite the fact that many members of the crew made their way to the surface by Davis escape apparatus, has focused attention on the whole technique of escape from submarines. The pictures and drawings in this special section of THE SPHERE illustrate this technique and also show the Navy's new rubberised immersion suit which is now being gradually supplied to operational units in the submarine service. This suit might well prevent a recurrence of what happened when so many men of the submarine *Truculent* were swept away in the darkness after coming to the surface.



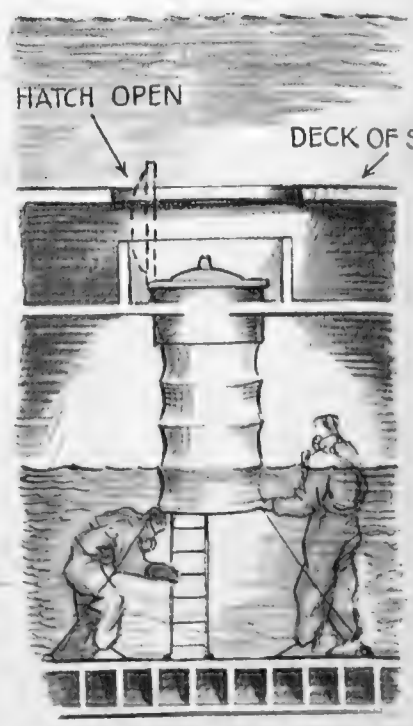
THE TECHNIQUE OF SUBMARINE ESCAPE

A SPECIAL THREE-PAGE SECTION OF "THE SPHERE" SHOWING THE NEW ESCAPE WEAR AND EQUIPMENT

***On left*—A DIAGRAMMATIC DRAWING SHOWING THE APPROXIMATE POSITIONS OF A SUBMARINE'S ESCAPE HATCHES: In addition to the three main hatches, which are equipped with twill escape tubes of the pattern shown in the picture at the top of this page, there are alternative means of exit through the superstructure. The positions of hatches vary in the different classes of submarines. The drawings on this and succeeding pages have been made by Laurence Dunn, who paid a visit to H.M.S. *Dolphin*, the submarine H.Q. at Portsmouth, to attend a special demonstration**



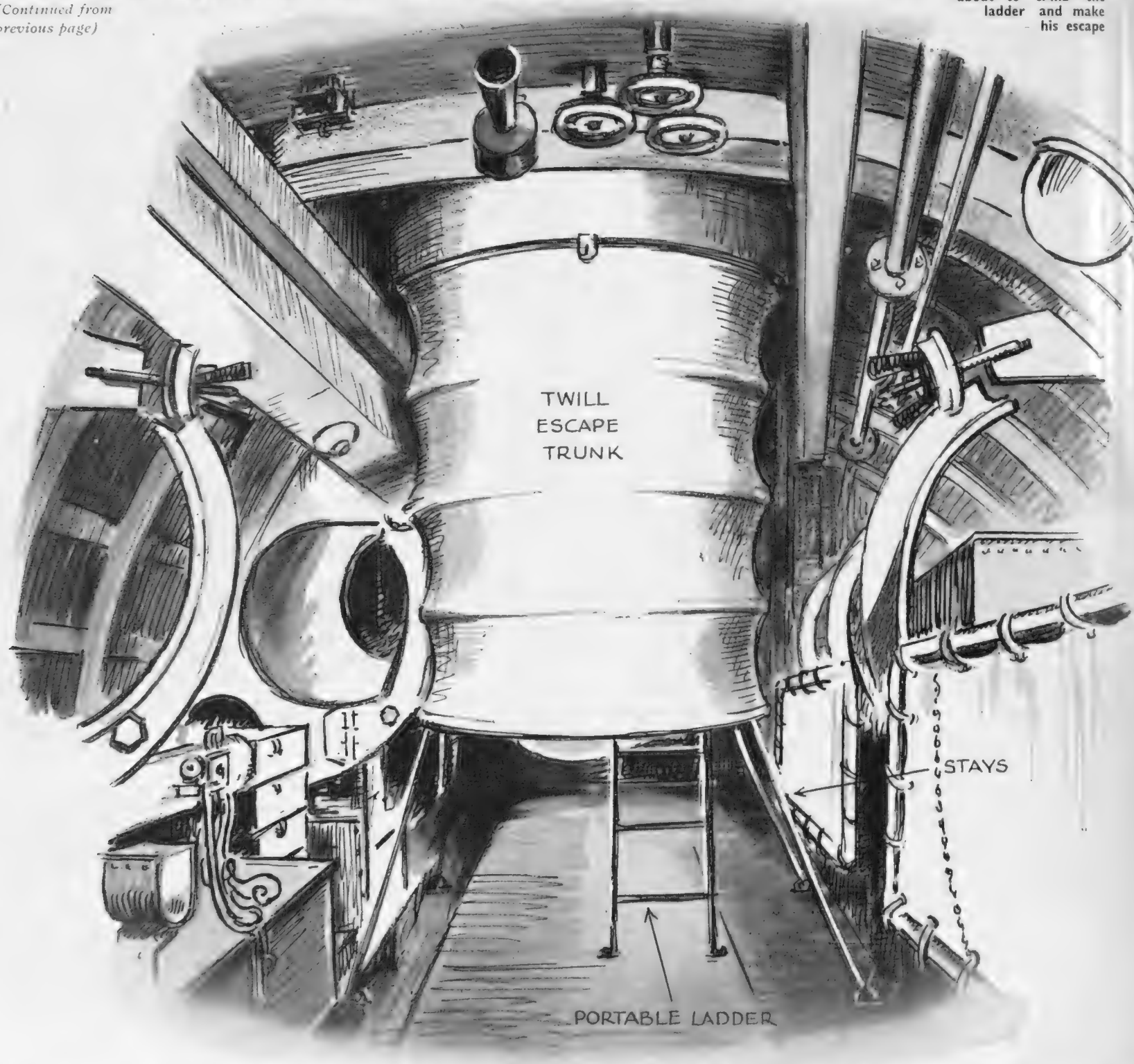
AN EXTERIOR VIEW OF A SUBMARINE ESCAPE HATCH: As will be seen, the deck grating is well above the actual hull of the craft, the space between being used for the stowage of gear. The escape hatch, if left open when a submarine is on the surface, can be shut without any delay from inside the vessel by a special winding apparatus



A SECTION THROUGH A SUNKEN SUBMARINE: This shows the twill escape tube lowered. The compartment has been flooded to allow of equal pressure within and without, and a seaman is about to climb the ladder and make his escape

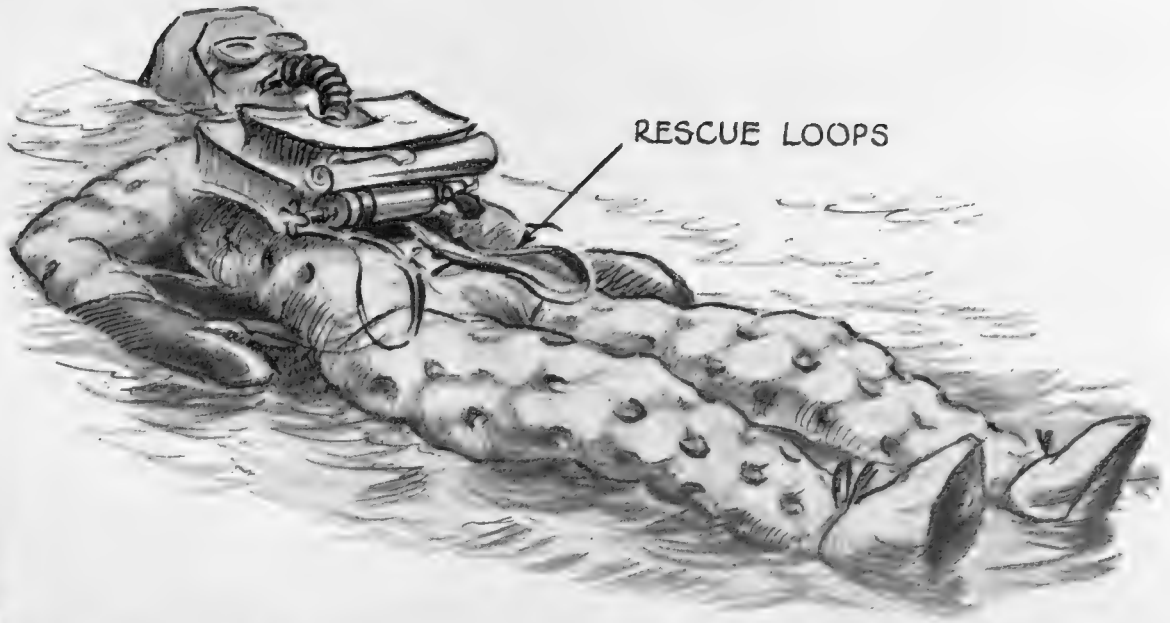
THE TECHNIQUE OF SUBMARINE ESCAPE

(Continued from previous page)



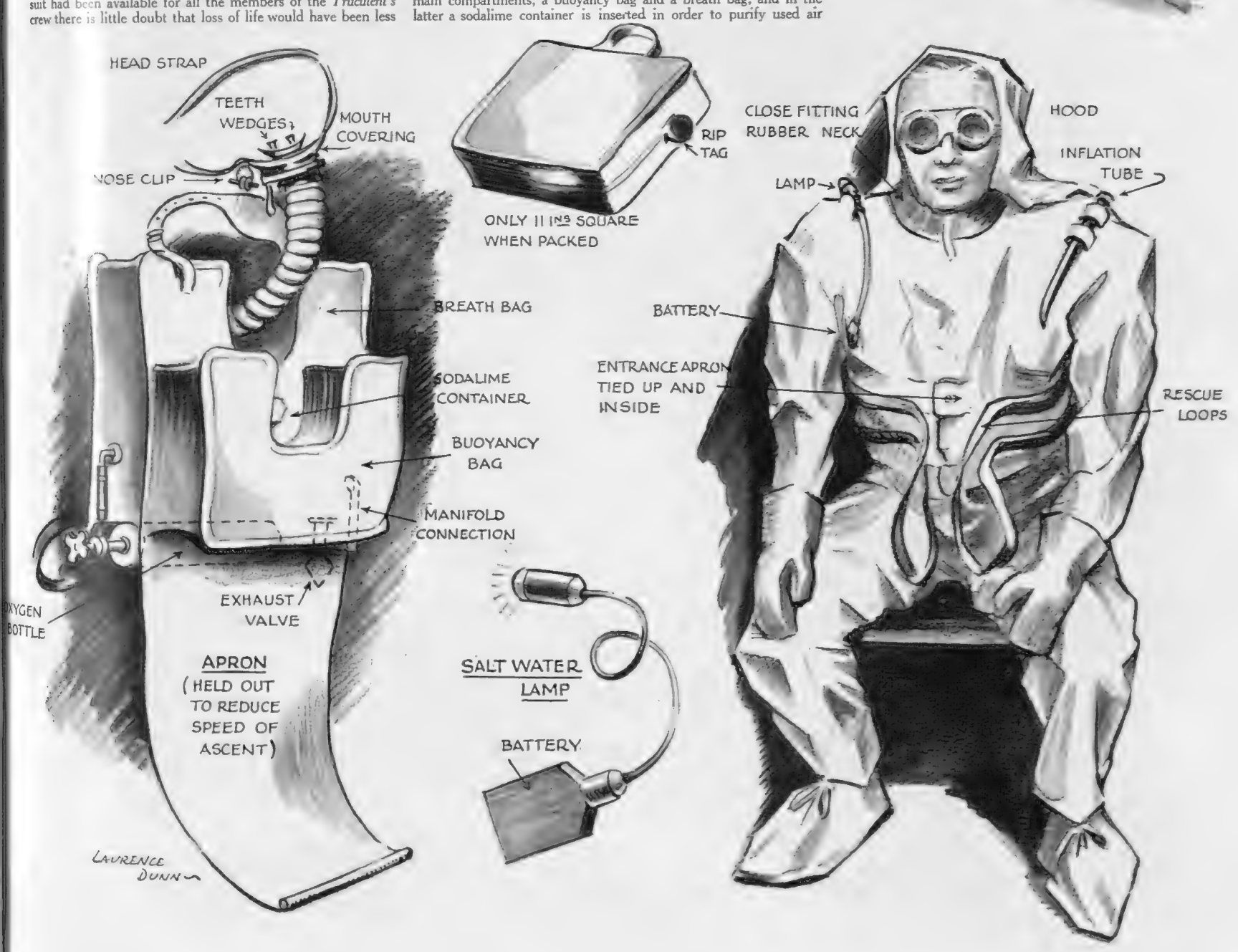
INSIDE ONE OF THE TORPEDO-STOWAGE COMPARTMENTS OF AN "A"-CLASS SUBMARINE: In this drawing the twill escape trunk, which is normally folded concertina-wise around the circular hatch overhead, is in its extended position and ready for use. The escape trunk is held in position by four stays attached to the floor, and a portable ladder is in position. Below and between the curved brackets on the left, which are specially shaped to hold spare torpedoes, is the nest of drawers in which the life-saving suits are kept. In H.M.S. *Truculent*, it was revealed, there was not available in each compartment a complete set of Davis Escape Apparatus

THE NEW RUBBERISED NYLON IMMERSION SUIT IN ITS UNINFLATED FORM WORN IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DAVIS ESCAPE APPARATUS : Beneath the D.E.A. can be seen the apron which checks the speed of rising to the surface after leaving the escape hatch, and beneath the apron are the loops provided for the boat-hooks of the rescuers. If this suit had been available for all the members of the *Truculent's* crew there is little doubt that loss of life would have been less



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE MEMBER OF A SUBMARINE CREW MAKES HIS ESCAPE : The drawing *on the right* shows him speeding to the surface in the Davis Escape Apparatus and the new rubberised immersion suit which are worn in conjunction. The man is holding out his special apron which controls his speed of rising Once on the surface, as shown in the top picture, he inflates the suit. The suit not only keeps the wearer afloat but insulates him against the elements

***Below*—THE NEW SUBMARINE IMMERSION SUIT WITH WHICH OUR SUBMARINES ARE NOW GRADUALLY BEING EQUIPPED AS SUPPLIES PERMIT :** The suit weighs only 6 lb. and when packed fits into a container measuring about 11 ins. square. This is quickly opened by means of a zip fastener. The suit has close-fitting rubber wrist- and neck-bands, and is entered through an apron in the middle. Once inside, the man ties this up and tucks it inside the suit. The detachable salt-water lamp which was so frequently mentioned in evidence relating to H.M.S. *Truculent* is shown separately in greater detail. One end of the battery is open and on contact with salt water lights the bulb automatically. On the left of the drawing is the Davis Submarine Escape Apparatus (D.S.E.A.), which is worn over the immersion suit. It has two main compartments, a buoyancy bag and a breath bag, and in the latter a sodalime container is inserted in order to purify used air



A MEDICINE MAN of the NAVAJO INDIANS

His Use of Sand Paintings as a Means of Curing Sickness

Two great railway systems cut across Arizona, but in that south-western State there are still places infinitely remote from civilisation. In some of the arid pasture-lands the Navajo Indians live their lives very much as they did 100 years ago, when the white man was first penetrating the West, and they still believe in the medicine man, and allow him to practise his innocent, if intricate, rites. Thirty-five miles by wagon trail from Kayenta, and several days' journey from the iron road of the Atcheson, Topeka and Santa Fé, lies the Navajo village where these pictures were taken, and the home of Jennie Yazzie.

Jennie had been ill with earache, bad earache, which had persisted ever since a rattlesnake came into the "hogan" where she was sleeping. Her mother sent for medicine man Kaytso.

Everyone in the village was *en fête* for the occasion, for the coming of Kaytso was no ordinary event, and the young ladies of the village saw to their hair and donned their finery.

Kaytso, after interviewing the child, had a word in private with the mother. He wanted to know what he was to be paid for his work. He did not have to remind Mamma Yazzie that he was a master of his craft: that he knew the medicinal value of all the local herbs and roots. His fame had gone before him, his many miraculous cures were well known among the reservations of the Navajo Indians. He was also a psychologist (but Mamma Yazzie did not realise that), knowing full well that many ills of the body were in the mind of man.

Kaytso soon agreed to the bargain. A handsome goat was to be the reward of his services, and after studying the sick child he decided to cure her with the aid of a sand painting. Kaytso smoothed out a large area of sand, which was to be his canvas. From a skin bag he took pinches of blue powder and, with thumb and forefinger, poured it down, creating the image of a solid disc. This represented the sun. Slowly but surely the painting was built up: the figure of power, the sun gods, each in a separate colour, gradually appeared, and in a horse-shoe round this theme there emerged the representation of a rattlesnake, its head and tail facing east.

Kaytso next dropped a medicinal powder into a half-gourd of water and soaked some chopped herb, which looked like green alfalfa, in a pottery dish. Jennie was then led to the centre of the picture and made to sit. Betsane Beagy, Jennie's uncle, began to shake the feathered rattle rhythmically, while Kaytso started to chant.

Still chanting, Kaytso smeared the chopped herbs on Jennie's feet, hands, face, shoulders and head. He made her drink the bitter concoction from the half-gourd. Jennie never murmured or stirred.

Next Jennie was taken from the circular painting and given to her mother. With the feathered rattle Kaytso carefully erased the picture, which must never remain after the sun has gone down. Betsane Beagy then gathered all the sand, natural and coloured, into the saddle-blanket and raced away eastward to spread it to the four winds. The ceremony was over.

THE MEDICINE MAN ARRIVES IN THE NAVAJO VILLAGE, ARIZONA: Kaytso, the medicine man, has come to see little Jennie Yazzie, who is seen standing beside her mother. Jennie has been ill with earache ever since a rattlesnake crawled next to her bed. The medicine man will attempt to cure her by his sand-painting method, which is widely believed in by the Navajo

THE FIRST TASK IN MAKING A SAND PAINTING: One of the women of the Navajo sets about grinding pigment to a fine powder. This will be used to colour the curative sand painting

KAYTSO'S SAND PAINTING: The medicine man has made the painting on the sand outside the house of Jennie Yazzie, the sick child. In the centre is the sun, and round the outside of the painting is a representation of the rattlesnake which is said to have caused Jennie's illness

JENNIE YAZZIE SITS IN THE CHARMED CIRCLE: The sand painting is complete and the sick child sits in the centre of it as the medicine man feeds her with a mixture of herbs and secret medicines. Quite remarkable cures, having not a little to do with the power of faith in the medicine man, are often achieved among the Navajo

FROM THE MOMENT THE MEDICINE MAN OPENS HIS BAG OF TRICKS, TO THE MOMENT WHEN HE RECEIVES A GIFT FROM THE GRATEFUL PARENTS, HE IS THE CYNOSURE OF ALL EYES IN THE INDIAN VILLAGE: *Left*—Here he is preparing to make his sand painting, sorting out the pigments and other materials which he will use for his task. *Centre*—Here he is using a carved board to smooth out the sand where the painting will be made. *Right*—Mamma Yazzie pays Kaytso, the medicine man, with a goat which he is seen preparing to lash-up and hoist on to his horse before departing from the village for his own home

SONNING FEARS ITS BIG NEIGHBOUR

Reading's Threat to a Lovely Thames-side Village

One of the loveliest little villages on the tranquil Upper Thames fears for its future at the hands of one of the ugliest big towns in the Home Counties. It is Sonning threatened by industrial Reading, two miles to the west.

Sonning's biggest worry is that Reading (indicted by Jerome K. Jerome as "Dirty Reading" in his *Three Men in a Boat*) has a plan it is keeping secret—except from certain Government circles in which it is known to have been lobbying.

Reading plans to build a huge drainage works right beside the picturesque little village, once first-prize winner in a competition for the most beautiful village in Britain. The works would take the place of a farm at present owned by Reading University. Effluent would be discharged into the Thames above Wargrave in one of its most beautiful reaches.

The Reading authorities have neither asked nor told anything about it, and Sonning residents fear there is a plot to present them with a *fait accompli*. "One thing we are all unanimous about, and that is that we shall fight this project to our utmost," Mr. Sidney Paddick, vice-chairman of the Parish Council, has said in an interview.

THE MAIN VILLAGE STREET AT SONNING, THE BERKSHIRE VILLAGE WHICH FACES A POSSIBLE THREAT FROM NEIGHBOURING READING, WHICH IS SAID TO BE PLANNING THE BUILDING OF A HUGE DRAINAGE WORKS THERE: This view looks eastwards along the little main street and shows old-world cottages and houses which in summer are covered with wistaria

SPANNING THE THAMES AT SONNING: This bridge, with its mellowed brick, in places overgrown by moss, is said to be over 400 years old

WHITE HART COTTAGES, SONNING: These were once the quarters of the personal servants of well-to-do travellers and of the hostelry staff. In summer they are gay with wistaria and flowering vines

GREEN LAWNS RUN DOWN TO THE EDGE OF THE ROAD: Sonning is as gay and trim as any village in Britain, and it is easy to understand how it once won the prize as Britain's most beautiful village. The thought that it may be swallowed up by the affairs of industrial Reading has caused a wave of local indignation

THE WATER MILL AT SONNING HAS BEEN GRINDING CORN CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THE DAYS WHEN KING JOHN STAYED IN SONNING ON THE EVE OF THE SIGNING OF MAGNA CHARTA AT NOT-FAR-DISTANT RUNNYMEDE: The mill now has a modern wooden frontage, but many of its ancient features are still extant. It is mentioned in the Domesday Book

WORCESTER RACECOURSE IS INUNDATED BY THE RIVER SEVERN : This aerial view shows the grandstand, the paddock and the finishing straight when the flooding reached its peak. The Severn was over 15 ft. above normal at this point, and all the way from Shrewsbury to Tewkesbury it was abnormally high, with people having to be evacuated from their homes in many places

THAMES AND SEVERN IN SPATE

Widespread Inundations in the West Country

Rainfall in the Thames Catchment area in the first fourteen days of February was almost double the normal rainfall for the whole month of February. It was little wonder that from Oxford to Teddington and from Teddington to the sea the great river was in spate, with Teddington weir recording a rate of flow of 4,700 million gallons a day. Along the Severn conditions were even more serious in mid-February, the heaviest flooding being at Worcester and Bewdley, where families had to be evacuated and warnings issued to all living on low-lying ground. The town of Tewkesbury was almost surrounded by water, although the main roads leading in and out of town were above the floods. Other rivers in spate were the Great Ouse, the Gloucestershire Avon (tributary of the Severn), the Teme, the Frome and the Biss.

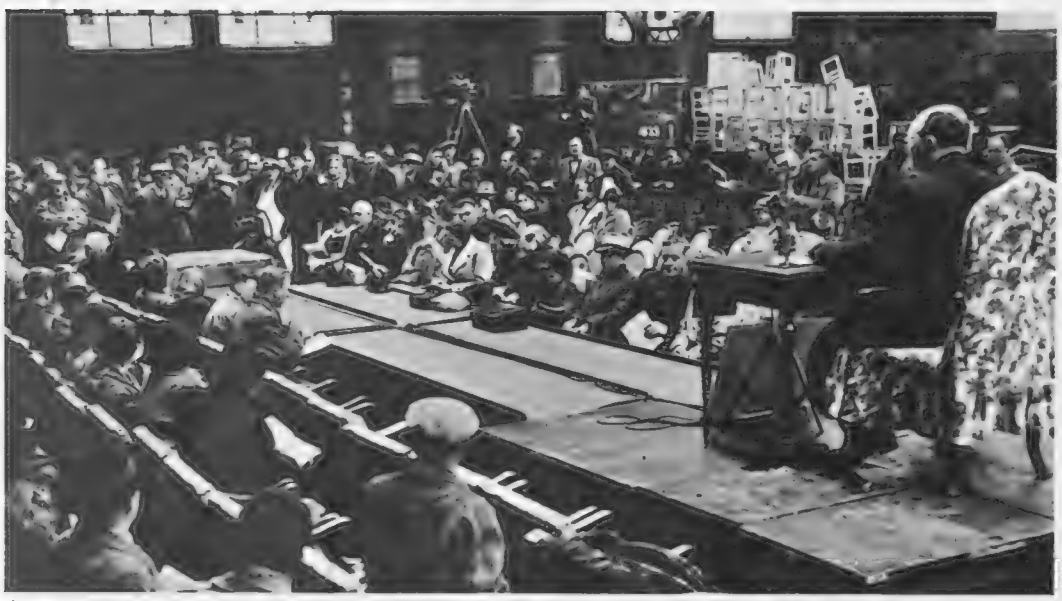
Above—**WHERE THE SEVERN BY-PASSED ITS OWN LOCKS:** The water spread across the countryside to the west of the city, but rising ground on the east, where the cathedral stands, kept it at bay. Worcester's inundated County Cricket Ground lies opposite the cathedral

Below—**THE TURBULENT THAMES AT MARLOW:** Water surging at flood force over the weir as the river rose steadily under the pressure of days of continuous rain. At Teddington the rate of flow was 4,700 million gallons, compared with the standard daily flow of 2,399 million gallons

THE LAUNCHING OF THE "CITY OF OTTAWA": *Left*—The graceful lines of the new cargo-liner are evident in this picture of her on the stocks just prior to launching. *Right*—Taken in charge by tugs after launching at High Walker-on-Tyne. The *City of Ottawa*, built by Vickers-Armstrong Ltd. for Ellerman Lines Ltd., is one of a class of ten vessels, seven of which have already been delivered. Another is due for delivery next week, the ninth in June and the last, the *City of Ottawa*, should be completed in July. She is of 10,980 tons deadweight, and is one of the cargo-passenger liners now becoming increasingly popular, of which Ellerman Lines were the pioneers. Luxurious accommodation is provided for twelve passengers; cabins are roomy, and each one has a private bathroom. The public rooms consist of a lounge and a dining-room with small tables; a spacious promenade deck, and a cocktail bar with a verandah. A swimming-pool is also provided for passengers during voyages. The *City of Ottawa* is driven by a single-screw turbine with water-tube boilers. The seven vessels of her class, now in use, are on different routes all over the world

FROM HIGH WALKER-ON-TYNE TO HOLLAND PARK

And Other Pictures of Home News



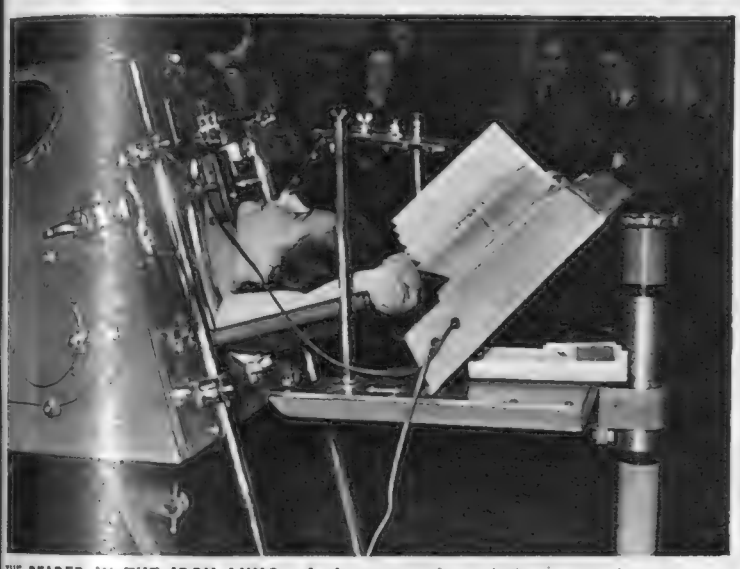
SELLING UP THE "AQUITANIA": The auctioneer on his platform in Shed 108, Southampton New Docks, during the sale of the liner's furniture. At the beginning of the sale, the auctioneer pointed out that there were those present who were there to buy for sentimental reasons as well as dealers, and promised to give everyone a chance. Later it was announced that the 45,000-ton liner had been sold to the British Iron and Steel Corporation (Salvage) Limited for demolition in the Clyde area. Meanwhile the veteran liner, which was built at Clydebank in 1914, lay beside the shed where the auction took place. Her panelling and some paintings were left on board, awaiting a purchase offer

THE SMITHS RETURN TO CANADA: Colin and Stanley Smith and Colin's wife, whom he married just before sailing, were photographed on their 20-ft. yacht, the *Nova Espero*, itself on board the 10,175-ton liner *Franconia*, on which the Smiths left Liverpool for Canada to found a community on Vancouver Island. Last August Colin and Stanley Smith crossed the Atlantic in their little yacht, the *Nova Espero*, in forty-three days. The sons of a Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, coxswain, they had migrated to Canada after the war. Now they return. They are going to Vancouver Island, where they are to start a model village "based on the rights of man." They hope that fifty families will join them there. Colin's wife, formerly Miss Muriel Spacey of Fawley, has won many prizes as a horsewoman

THE LAST SESSION OF CHURCH ASSEMBLY BEFORE THE GENERAL ELECTION—THE HOUSE OF LAITY MEET FOR A TWO-DAY SPRING SESSION AT CENTRAL HALL, WESTMINSTER: With the election of the new Parliament, a new Assembly will be elected. *On left*—The Assembly during the first day's meeting, presided over by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher. *On right*—The chairman and the lay-secretary, Mr. John A. Guillum Scott. By the end of the first day an amended form of the Bishops (Retirement) Measure was referred to a drafting Committee. This measure provides for voluntary or compulsory retirement of a bishop subjected to physical or mental disability. The Bishop of Winchester, Dr. Haigh, explained the changes to the amendments. He maintained that the measure had now been much improved

GAS-MASKS ARE STILL CARRIED IN A SHROPSHIRE VILLAGE: Alderbury schoolchildren go home after the monthly gas drill, which is still kept up because of the Army poison-gas dump only four miles away at Loton Park

THE POISON-GAS DUMP IN LOTON PARK, NEAR THE VILLAGE OF ALDERBURY: The 800 villagers find that it is still necessary to keep their gas-masks handy, and once a month the wail of the siren is heard calling schoolchildren and adults to gas-mask drill. The reason for these precautions is the W.D. poison-gas dump situated in Loton Park (home of Sir Richard Leighton), in the vicinity of the village, and although there is no great danger of any leakage from the dump, the village authorities deem it wiser to carry on with periodic gas drills until the dump is removed and the final "all clear" sounded. For some time the village and the county council have demanded the removal of the dump. Last October, Mr. Shinwell promised that a commission would meet local authorities on the spot to discuss the matter, but nothing had been done up to the time of going to press



THE READER IN THE IRON LUNG: A demonstration of the new prismatic book reader which is fitted with an electrical device for turning the pages, operated by the patient's chin. It was shown at "The Cure of Books" Exhibition held by the British Red Cross Society at the offices of the National Book League. The exhibition was held to appeal for gifts of 500,000 books a year and to recruit part-time volunteer workers for the hospital library department. The books go to institutions, prison hospitals and ordinary hospitals

OPENING THE 800-YEARS-OLD MART AT KING'S LYNN: The Mayor, Mr. William Blomfield, reads the proclamation to declare the fair open. After the ceremony, the Mayor and his party had the first ride on the roundabouts. Originally the mart was purely commercial; now it is an amusement fair. In Edward I's reign, King's Lynn was one of the principal ports of England. In 1397 it ranked fifth among the towns contributing "loans" to meet the Royal necessities. At the beginning of the sixteenth century King's Lynn flourished as a centre of the cloth-manufacturing industry

A RECORDER BAND IN A HASTINGS SCHOOL: Cecil Arnold, Musical Adviser to the Borough, conducts the Clive Vale Secondary Modern Mixed School Band. Pupils buy their own "descant" or "treble" recorders and rehearse during lunch hours. Mr. Arnold's notion has become popular; three other schools in Hastings now have recorder bands, and it is hoped that the idea will spread to all schools in the town. The recorder, of the tipple flute family, was a favourite instrument in Tudor and Elizabethan times

A HUNGARIAN FAMILY MAKE BROOCHES FOR EXPORT: Ilona Ronay (left) paints a china figure brooch at the Holland Park studio. Hungarian-born, David Ronay, his three sons and his daughter Ilona are producing numbers of china figures depicting historical English scenes and characters, and making them into brooches. Each figurine is individually modelled and hand-painted. All the family studied at a Vienna art school

OUT IN THE OPEN

Fishing the Tay ; Anglers Along the Lea ;
The Ludlow Hunts in the Cotswolds

AFTER THE OPENING OF THE TAY SALMON NET-FISHING SEASON : Mr. August Ferguson, from Harris, Western Isles, boxing salmon for market. Until the close of the season on August 20, the fishermen work day and night, according to the tides, on the many "beats" of the river. The fishermen are mainly drawn from local districts and from the Western Isles

HAULING IN HIS CATCH AFTER THE OPENING OF THE SALMON NET-FISHING SEASON ON THE TAY : Mr. R. Adams, of Newburgh, Fife, dragging the last of the net on to the bank before taking out the two salmon. Prospects for the salmon net-fishing season are considered to be good

AIMED AT THE EXPORT TARGET—BOWS OF STEEL AND ARROWS OF ALUMINIUM MANUFACTURED IN BIRMINGHAM : Miss Barbara Waterhouse, an employee of Accles and Pollock, and Women's World Champion archer, and Mr. Jack Thompson, bow designer, inspecting a steel bow. Both are members of Apollo Archers, the firms archery club

On Left—With the export market as their target, a well-known steel tubing firm in Birmingham is now making bows and arrows in steel and aluminium. The steel long-bows are said by expert archers, to give far better performance and greater accuracy than wooden weapons. Making the bows involves 200 processes, almost every one by hand. Fourteen heat treatments are needed, and the thickness of the tapered steel tube from which the bow is drawn has to be controlled within one-thousandth of an inch. Orders for the new bows and arrows have been coming in from all parts of the world

A JOINT MEET IN THE COTSWOLDS—THE LUDLOW HUNTS WITH THE COTSWOLD : The Ludlow hounds in the Cotswold stone-wall country. The Master of the Ludlow, Sir Hugh Arbuthnot, took his hounds to the Kilkenny meet at the invitation of the Cotswold Hunt

THE ANGLERS' DAY OUT—MEMBERS OF THE LONDON ANGLERS' ASSOCIATION HOLD THEIR ANNUAL BENEVOLENT COMPETITION ALONG THE RIVER LEA : More than 700 anglers spent the second Sunday in February fishing along the banks of the river from Hertford to Broxbourne. Ranged down the river in four sections, they stretched five miles along the banks. The anglers were members of clubs affiliated to the London Anglers' Association and the occasion was their big day of the year. There is good fishing in the upper reaches of the river, which rises near Houghton Regis in Bedfordshire. The portion of the river seen in this picture is at Priory Reach, Ware, Hertfordshire. As the river winds its way to the Thames it forms the boundary between Middlesex and Essex

AFTERMATH OF A TRAGEDY IN THE FRENCH ALPS : A rescue team removing the bodies of coal-miners who were buried by an avalanche which overwhelmed their two-storey hut near the Erpie Mine in the mountains near Grenoble

A FUNERAL CORTÈGE ON SKIS : The body of one of the twelve miners who were killed at the Erpie Mine, near Grenoble, when their hut was overwhelmed by an avalanche, is conveyed down the mountainside. All twelve of the men involved in this disaster were cousins

Owing to the difficulty of returning to their villages and hamlets in the valley most of the miners at the Erpie Mine, one of the highest in Europe, slept in two-storey huts in the vicinity of the workings. The mine is at an altitude of 6,000 ft. in the French Alps, and recently, without a moment's warning, thousands of tons of ice and rock crashed down on one of the huts in which twelve of the fourteen occupants were killed. It appears that a store of petrol in barrels was crushed by the avalanche and ignited by a stove, and it is assumed that several of the miners lost their lives in the flames.

MID-WINTER AT A FRENCH ALPINE RESORT : A car engulfed by the snow at Alpe d'Huez, near Grenoble, where the snowfall has been particularly severe Numerous villages in the French Alps have lately been completely cut off from the larger towns, and in some places food supplies have begun to run short

SKI PRINTS in the SNOW

News from the French, Italian and Bavarian Alps

SKI-JÖRING, ITALIAN VERSION : With two skiers tailing on behind, this specially adapted motor-scooter which is equipped with skis, recently climbed Mount Madesimo, travelling for 20 kilometres on an icy track and reaching a height of 4,500 ft.

ENTER THE SKI BOB : Herr Reiss Schmidt, who is seen in the centre of the picture *on the left*, accompanied by his wife and child, is the inventor of the ski bob, which consists of a frame mounted on skis and steered by a crossbar resembling a cycle's handlebars. The ski bob is 6-ft. long and has a cycle saddle mounted 14 ins. above the ground. *On the right* Frau Schmidt is seen giving a demonstration of her prowess in the Bavarian Alps. Herr Schmidt says that these machines could be mass-produced for £8 apiece

NEW BUILDINGS RISE IN THE BLITZED CITY OF LONDON: *Left*—The skeleton of the giant new office building which is rising at the corner of Old Jewry and Lothbury and will provide more office accommodation for the Bank of England. *Right*—The huge block of offices which is rising on the blitzed site bounded by Holborn Viaduct, Charterhouse Street, Farringdon Street and Shoe Lane

Here and there within the blitzed confines of the City of London blocks of offices are beginning to rise as the careful rebuilding plans, made towards the end of, and since the war, begin to mature. £600,000 is being spent on the office block at Old Jewry and Lothbury. The site was originally occupied by a building which was taken over by the Bank of England in 1925 to accommodate staff while bank rebuilding and extension were in progress. During the war a flying bomb landed on the roof, and the damage was so great that the building had to be demolished. The building near Holborn Viaduct, which faces the City Temple, is costing £700,000. It will have underground garages and shops at street level.

THE BUILDINGS GO UP AND THE PLAQUES GO UP

New Office Blocks in the City; John Burns and Henry Irving Commemorated

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL HONOURS THE NAME OF JOHN BURNS: On the walls of this house at 110, North Side, Clapham, a plaque (*inset on right*) has been put up to mark the fact that it was once the home of John Burns, one of the early Socialist leaders, who died in 1943. The L.C.C. has thus waived its rule that twenty years must elapse after a man's death before a plaque may be put up on his former home. It was in 1885 that Burns first contested a seat in Parliament, and it was in 1892 that he was elected Labour M.P. for Battersea. In 1905 he entered the Liberal Cabinet

AN IRVING PLAQUE GOES UP ON NO. 15a, GRAFTON STREET: Sir Henry Irving lived at No. 15a for some time. He also lived at Gordon Place, Gordon Square; and at 87, Newgate Street, in the City of London, it is recorded that he served his time as a publisher's clerk. London also commemorates Sir Henry Irving with a statue in Charing Cross Road, near the National Portrait Gallery

"THE LOISTER DOOR": This reconstruction of a celebrated early photograph of William Henry Fox Talbot, the father of modern photography, was made on February 11 at Lacock Abbey, near Chippenham, at one time the home of Fox Talbot and the scene of his important researches. The day marked the 150th anniversary of the birth of Fox Talbot, and to commemorate it the President of the Royal Photographic Society and other leading photographers visited the Abbey, where there was a special exhibition of cameras

LACOCK ABBEY AND FOX TALBOT

COMMEMORATING THE 150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF THE FATHER OF MODERN PHOTOGRAPHY

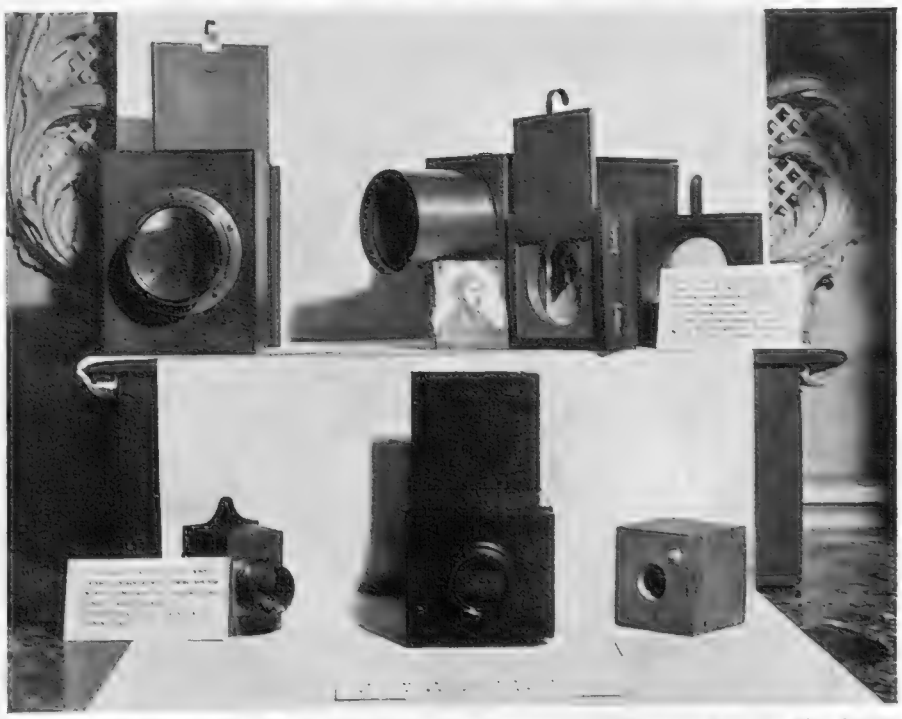
On February 11, 1800, William Henry Fox Talbot was born at Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire, and this year, on the 150th anniversary of the great inventor's birth, photographers came from all parts of Britain, and some from abroad, to pay tribute to his memory at Lacock, where he carried out his experiments and made his first photographs. Talbot became interested in photography during a visit to Lake Como. It was while honeymooning in the glorious surroundings of Northern Italy that this mathematician, botanist, astronomer and watercolour artist first thought of trying to make permanent notes of the scenery for use in his sketches. Viewing scenes cast on the screen of his camera obscura made him think of the possibility of a method of preserving the pictures of his surroundings at Como.

Fox Talbot's subsequent researches between 1834 and 1841 place him in the forefront of photographic pioneers. Although he was the first to discover the principles of photography, he was not the first to publish them, Daguerre having forestalled him by a matter of days.

Fox Talbot's researches were made known in a paper which he presented in 1839 to the Royal Society, and which was entitled "Some account of the art of photogenic drawing, or the process by which natural objects may be made to delineate themselves without the aid of an artist's pencil." The great difference between Talbot's work and that of Daguerre is that Talbot brought into use the photographic negative, from which a number of prints could be taken, whereas by Daguerre's system a single picture only could be produced from each plate. One of the great features of the recent commemoration at Lacock Abbey has been the exhibition of early cameras and early equipment staged by the Royal Photographic Society.

FOX TALBOT'S ORIGINAL CAMERA IS BROUGHT OUT ON THE LAWNS OF LACOCK ABBEY ON THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH: While Harold White and his assistant posed as mid-nineteenth-century photographers, some enthusiastic visitors brought out Leicas and other modern "contraptions" to record the commemorative scene

FOX TALBOT'S CELEBRATED PICTURE "THE LADDER" RE-STAGED IN THE GROUNDS OF LACOCK ABBEY: Harold White is playing the part of Fox Talbot, and is seen manœuvring his camera into position on the garden path. It was at Lacock that Fox Talbot carried out most of his experiments



FOX TALBOT'S CAMERAS AT LACOCK ABBEY: The inventor's 1835 camera is on the lower shelf on the right, and his "mousetrap" camera is on the lower shelf on the left. At the top on the right is a long-focus box-type camera. In this equipment, both the ground-glass focusing screen and the glasses within the dark slide are optically worked to correct the curvature of the field of the lens. This is probably unique

1. SPEECHES AT THE YAROSLAV STATION: Chou En Lai, Communist China's Foreign Minister, arrives at Moscow with his delegation. Foreign Minister Vishinsky is on left

PEOPLE:

SOME PERSONALITIES IN THE WORLD'S NEWS

2. MAOTZE SMILES ON MOSCOW

3. THE RADIO DOCTOR TAKES HIS EASE

1 and 2. TOWARDS SINO-SOVIET UNDERSTANDING: The arrival of Chou En Lai, China's Foreign Minister to join Maotze, China's leader, in Moscow was the signal for an enthusiastic official welcome, and while in Peiping there was a rumour that an anti-Maotze faction was gathering strength in Communist China, it seemed equally clear that Maotze, who had already been in Russia seven weeks, had no intention of leaving Moscow until he had established a new agreement. Some of the terms of this agreement became known last week, and in many ways they accord with all the treaties Russia has made. There is an undertaking to take joint measures for preventing a repetition of aggression by Japan or any other State that should be united with Japan, directly or indirectly. The second important article of agreement concerns the Chinese Changchun Railway, Port Arthur and Dairen. Russia's railway rights in Manchuria are to be transferred back to China, and Soviet troops are to withdraw from Port Arthur, handing the installations there over to China. It is agreed, however, that in the event of an eastern war Soviet Russia could use Port Arthur as a base.

3. THE POLITICAL ADVENTURES OF DR. CHARLES HILL: Dr. Hill, better known to millions as the Radio Doctor, was not only a combined Conservative-Liberal candidate in the General Election, but he gave one of the official party broadcasts over the radio, his remarks on proteins and calories, and the general dietary of Britain, arousing either fervent support or heated rejoinder in accordance with the political affiliations of his hearers. Dr. Hill concluded by saying: "Our diet is dull and dreary, and we know it."

4. THE RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PAASIKIVI: Despite Communist gains in the recent elections, Mr. Paasikivi, who was first elected in March 1946, was once again returned as Finland's head of State. He defeated two other candidates, gaining 171 votes in the electoral college to the 67 cast for Kekkala, his Communist opponent, and the 62 cast for Kekkonen, his Agrarian opponent. As a result of the improvement in the Communist position, it is thought that the party may now return to the offensive in Finland.

4. PRESIDENT PAASIKIVI (RIGHT) RECEIVES THE CONGRATULATIONS OF PARLIAMENT

5. THE RECOGNITION OF HO CHI MINH: In 1946, Indo-Chinese Nationalists, led by Moscow-trained Ho Chi Minh, rebelled against French rule and established the autonomous Republic of Viet Nam. (Viet Nam comprises 40 per cent. of Indo-China's area and 84 per cent. of its population.) The French Government, which at first recognised Ho, soon broke off relations. France has been at war with Ho's Government since December 1946. Almost a year ago France made a diplomatic attempt to counterbalance Ho's appeal to the Indo-Chinese. The Paris Government set up Bao Dai, a former Emperor of Annam, as head of a rival Viet Nam regime. At the end of January the French National Assembly approved a series of treaties granting limited independence to the Bao Dai Government. To-day Bao Dai's regime—although supposedly autonomous—is maintained by about 130,000 French troops, all under French command. They occupy only the large cities, roads and railroad lines; Ho's forces control the rest of Viet Nam. Three weeks ago the Peiping Government recognised Ho's Government as the legal regime in Viet Nam, and within a few days Moscow extended recognition to Ho. Most of Russia's satellites followed suit. The French Government protested vigorously to Moscow, but Moscow rejected the protest. Ho's army is believed to consist of between 60,000 and 70,000 lightly armed guerillas.

6. HOFFMAN AND CONNOLLY CONFER ON MARSHALL AID: The Administrator of the Economic Co-operation Administration and the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee recently met in Washington, when Mr. Hoffman indicated that he would ask for a sizeable reduction in Marshall Aid for the coming year. On his return to Washington an associate is said to have asked Mr. Hoffman how he got on during his recent European tour, when he had sought to make some progress on European integration. Mr. Hoffman replied: "You know that expression 'Veni, Vidi, Vici.' Well, I made the first two."

7. THE TEDDERS ON HOLIDAY: Marshal of the Royal Air Force Lord Tedder, now freed from the cares of administrative office, and Lady Tedder have been at Wengen, and they are seen in this picture attending the twenty-fifth anniversary meeting of the British Down Hill Ski Club.

5. HO CHI MINH OVER VIET NAM

6. CONNOLLY TALKS WITH HOFFMAN

7. THE TEDDERS AT PLAY AT WENGEN

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The World of Books—By VERNON FANE

"A HOUSE IN THE CEVENNES"

The Adventures of a Family in a French Mountain Village

WHY is it that the adventures of a family in a French village can make so much more amusing and original reading than the adventures of the same kind of family in an English village? There are very few Cranfords, and yet, it seems, any number of Provençal or Dauphiné or Ile-de-France villages from which even an unpractised writer can extract the best kind of fun and the most moving experiences. If this is a challenge, I am content that it should be so, for my own knowledge of English people moving into country communities, where they hope eventually to be adopted as friends and neighbours, is that their advances are dourly rebuffed, that the only comedy comes from their own attempts to mend burst pipes when the plumber refuses to turn out at night, and that the liveliest passages have nothing to do with them but take place at the Village Hall, which they dare not attend for fear of being thought patronising, or an interloper. The fact that they order these things better in France is demonstrated to us yet again by Miss Jeanne Saleil, who writes of her own young days when, with her family, she went to live in a village in Southern France. At first their invasion was only a yearly and temporary one, but at length they bought a house and really settled in. And they were accepted by the villagers. Not only accepted, but their house was the setting for all the best jokes, and their mother and father the first to hear of local triumphs and tragedies. A HOUSE IN THE CEVENNES (Gollancz. 10s. 6d.) is an enchanting book. It could have been written in England, and was, in fact, written mostly in the United States, but it could never have been written *about* either of these great countries. France still has that little something that the others haven't got—for writers.

Nearly four years ago Mr. Peter de Polnay rented Boulge Hall, a house in Suffolk which had belonged to Edward Fitzgerald, the poet and writer who translated the *Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. As he lived there in a countryside which Fitzgerald had once described as "one of the ugliest places in England—one of the dullest," the character of the man began to interest Mr. de Polnay more and more, until he decided to write a study of him which should not be a formal biography, but a kind of examination of the paradox of Edward Fitzgerald. INTO AN OLD ROOM (Secker and Warburg. 12s. 6d.) is an irritating book in a way because of this decision, for although the reader may learn a good deal about the Victorian figure, the twentieth-century shape of Mr. de Polnay constantly comes between one and the portrait. "I turned to my wife for his last letter, for any minute now he would die on me," is a typical passage near the end of the book, as is this passage from an early chapter: "With a sudden shock I notice that Fitzgerald is still a small boy, and that I have not yet sent him to school." The fact, duly and gleefully recorded, that Mr. de Polnay once owned Mr. Cyril Connolly's car, is a disconcerting intrusion, too. Still, the figure of Edward Fitzgerald does emerge and, as the author writes, towers above his friends. Fitzgerald "whose age let him lead his own life, and, because it let him, he repaid it with the *Rubaiyat*, the *Letters* and the fine friendship he dispensed."

LETTERS TO A FRIEND—MARCEL PROUST (Falcon. 9s. 6d.) covers the period from 1904 to 1919 in the writer's life, and has been translated from the original French by Alexander and Elizabeth Henderson. Most of the letters are addressed to M. Georges de Lauris, who has contributed a long and illuminating preface. "The Marcel I have tried to evoke in these reminiscences," he writes, "is truly the Marcel I knew. I do not claim that there were no others. But these letters will, I think, help the reader to understand what he was like as a friend, with his exceptional gifts, his sensitivity, ever attentive and anxious. . . ." A recurrent note in the letters is Proust's ill-health, of which he often complained, and with which he was often impatient as it interrupted his work and kept him from his friends' companionship; but an equally frequent motif is his sympathetic consideration of other people's problems, illnesses and bereavements. The death of a friend's mother can keep him from the desk, where he should be writing an article for *Figaro*, and of the illness of a friend's father he writes: "I am haunted by his pain." Even in his private and, indeed, personal correspondence there are typically Proustian phrases and involved sentences. After one such, he wrote: "Example of a sentence not to be imitated, and which you can quote against me." In their total effect, the letters are saddening, but they give one reaction, and that, I think, an essential one. After reading them one wants to return to the reading of Proust's novels, to find what to most of us will be the best of him, in his fiction.

A bitingly cold winter's day in England—and a book about the Caribbean islands! The contrast is really too sharp to be kind, but it does at least heighten one's appreciation of a book by Miss Rosita Forbes, in which she describes her journeyings in the Bahamas, where she now lives, and round the Leeward and Windward Islands. ISLANDS IN THE SUN (Evans. 12s. 6d.) has its faults; it is diffuse and chatty, and I would have preferred twice the number of photographs, but it can also be said that the discursiveness fits the subject and that the thirty-three photographs that have been chosen are quite excellent. Rosita Forbes herself lives on Eleuthera, the island of the lovely name and lovelier beaches, and there is a view of her house, though I could have wished for photographs of its interior too, and of the courtyard that I believe it possesses. But on the whole this is a richly informative book, and Miss Forbes has a practical attitude towards the questions of building prices, wages and the cost of housekeeping. If you know the islands, you will relish the memories this book brings to you. If you don't, you will want to go there and, with this volume in your luggage, you will have a friendly and helpful guide.

If I were ever handing out advice to the young, which Heaven forbid, I should counsel those who were embryo journalists to think hard and think twice before they accepted any dazzling offer of a job on one of those New York magazines of news lavishly illustrated with views. To begin with, the standard of efficiency they require is very high, and that might be daunting, and to go on with, the pace and the competition must be nerve-racking. There also appears to be the small matter of the personal conflict between what the magazine writer feels, and what the magazine editor wants. There is a young but interesting school of fiction which describes life in these editorial palaces and passages with an informed air and considerable wryness. These novels make amusing reading, but they also constitute a Horrible Warning. The latest among them is THE BIG WHEEL (Gollancz 9s. 6d.), by Mr. John Brooks, who writes vividly but with some of the over-emphasis and jerkiness one expects from a young man who has chosen a controversial subject and is determined that you should know it. I found it very entertaining though, and instructive perhaps beyond the author's intention.

ASPREYS PROVIDE AN ELEGANT MODERN SETTING FOR PERIOD FURNITURE: A charming inlaid secretaire (an example of Torpino's work), a writing-table of the Louis XV period, and one of a set of early Georgian dining-chairs are among the important pieces displayed by Asprey and Company in their new showrooms on the first floor of their Bond Street premises

Although there is not nearly enough of one of my favourite woman detectives (the other, of course, is Mrs. Bradley), in ETERNITY RING (Hodder and Stoughton 8s. 6d.), I still enjoyed it, and would like to recommend it to you. The redoubtable Miss Silver still knits imperturbably through murder and mayhem, and comes up with the right answers and exquisite coatees for babies at one and the same time, but in this particular story she is not as much in evidence—and I assure you that no pun is intended there. Miss Patrick Wentworth has written a grisly and yet briskly-moving tale of dark doings in the fair Lowland countryside, of black suspicions and misunderstandings and of the course of true love running about as straight as a sheep path. One or two of her characters are not as fully drawn as usual, perhaps; there was a promising one at the opening of the book who later dwindled away, to my disappointment, for I thought there were great possibilities in the eavesdropping of a bedridden spinster on a party telephone line. But, in general, the book is well constructed, and the solution, if not surprising, at least logical.

MEN ARE SO ARDENT (Heinemann. 8s. 6d.) is a re-issue of Mr. Gerald Kersh's first novel, published in 1936. The critics noted its pristine talent at the time, but the publishers say that the war killed it dead. In a foreword to this edition, Mr. Kersh writes: "Now I am a storyteller. It pleases me to please as many people as possible by telling these stories. This . . . is not as well told as I would wish it to be." So he has revised the text and tidied it up, and the result is good vintage Kersh.

THE GLORY OF DENMARK

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From Flensburg, on the Schleswig-Holstein frontier, to The Skaw, at Jutland's tip, from Esbjerg, on the west, to Copenhagen on the east, Denmark is a land that inspires deep devotion in its people, a longing among its exiles. It has a measure of variety, in the green verdure of the eastern shores, the forbidding dunes of the west, where the seas rise high and the wind is so often at gale strength; and in the towns and villages, particularly its fishing villages, there is enchantment. In DENMARK: LAND OF BEAUTY (Allen and Unwin. 42s.), Sigvast Werner would seem to have captured the spirit of this northern land in a magnificent series of over 160 pictures. The camera ranges far and wide among the islands of Funen and Zealand, and along the Jutland peninsula. It does not dwell solely in the haunts of the tourist, but seeks out and finds:

"The Jutland winds and the Jutland spaces.
League upon league of a land untilled."

Even those who only guess at Denmark's loveliness, its gaunt, compelling solitudes, will be moved by this book of pictures that requires no verbal adornment.

Lord Boyd Orr, who has warned the world on more than one occasion that it is rumbling to destruction unless it pays due attention to the development of agriculture, provides an introduction to Mr. Egon Glesinger's book THE COMING AGE OF WOOD (Secker and Warburg. 12s. 6d.). Mr Glesinger, who was Secretary-General of the Comité International de Bois from 1933 to 1946, when he joined the Forestry Division of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, is much more of an optimist than Lord Boyd Orr, and in this book, which is addressed to the general public rather than to experts, he shows what vast contributions modern technology applied to forest products can make to industrial prosperity and, indeed, to the sum total of the world's wealth. The potential output, he says, of the 9,000,000,000 acres of world forest, once it was restored and managed as a cropland, would be 14,000,000,000 tons of wood a year, plus many millions of tons of extractives. The present industrial yield is a mere 200,000,000 tons. An integrated forest technology, concludes Mr. Glesinger, could convert the immense raw material supply into more than 10,000,000,000 tons of goods for the world's needs, twice the tonnage of all the mineral raw materials, fuels and foodstuffs consumed by mankind to-day

To have lived in Manchester, to have been poor in Manchester, to have known the Manchester of C. E. Montague and C. P. Scott, was a source of seemingly inexhaustible reminiscence for the late James Agate, whose *Ego* series kept going from 1935 onwards without ever quite outstaying its welcome. For Neville Cardus the background is the same, but cricket and music have been the dominating affairs of his life, whereas for Agate it was the theatre and the show ring. In SECOND INNINGS (Collins: 12s. 6d.), the successor and supplement to his Autobiography, Neville Cardus gives us in generous measure his early Manchester experiences, and, despite the fact that the mixture is as before, it will be widely welcomed. Cardus has a unique place in world journalism, for somehow or other he can refer in the same breath to the Hallé Orchestra and Old Trafford without appearing unduly incongruous. This charming raconteur carries his bat in this second innings, but the reader may be excused if references to Macartney, the Figaro of cricket, cause him to conjure up thoughts of prolific Benjamin Britten, "the Bradman of composers," or controversial Sir Thomas Beecham, "the Warwick Armstrong of conductors."

Another engaging writer on cricket is Learie Constantine who has quite a number of books to his credit, all of them controversial and all devoted to the interests of the game. CRICKET CRACKERS (Stanley Paul. 16s.), as the title suggests, does not lack fireworks, and Constantine makes a violent attack on those in the West Indies who are still allowing racial discrimination to spoil the game in the islands.

THE HORSEMAN'S YEAR (Collins. 10s. 6d.) is now a firm favourite among racing, hunting and show-ring enthusiasts, and in this fourth issue Lieut.-Colonel Lyon has maintained the standard admirably. As usual, the photographs of the champions of 1949 are excellent. John Hislop reviews the Flat Race season and the National Hunt season, J. Talbot Ponsonby discusses international show jumping, and there is a first-rate contribution on racing and breeding in Australia.

Griselda Lewis's AN INTRODUCTION TO ENGLISH POTTERY (Art and Technics. 10s. 6d.) is a welcome addition to the finely illustrated and produced *Introductions Series*

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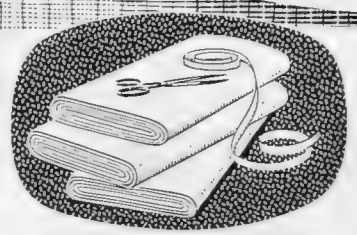

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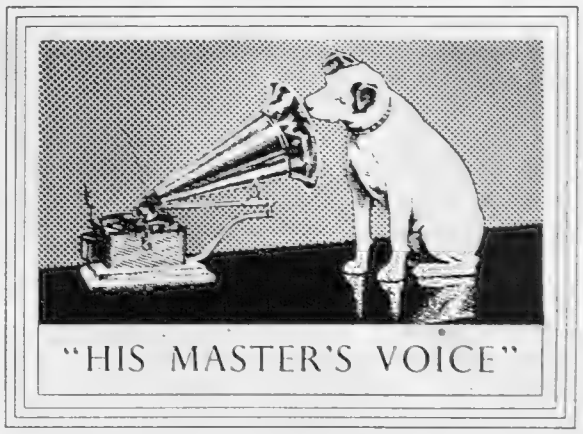

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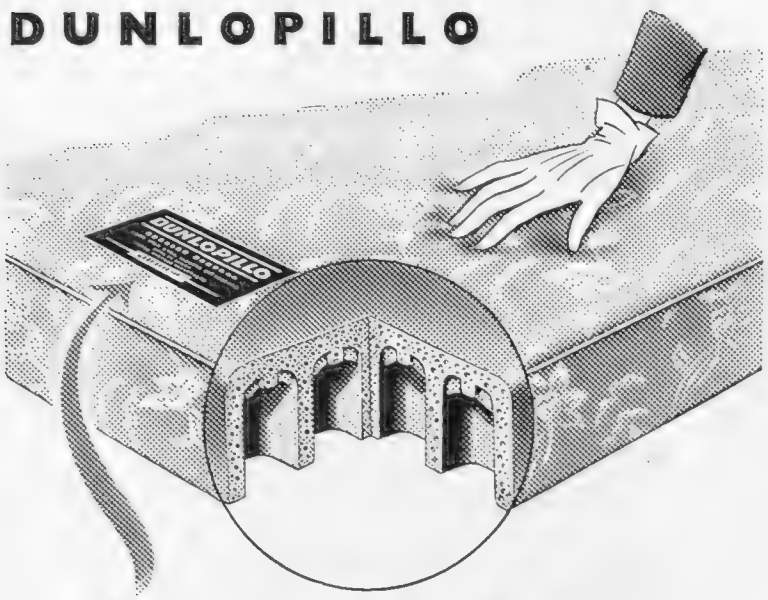

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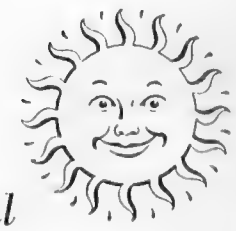

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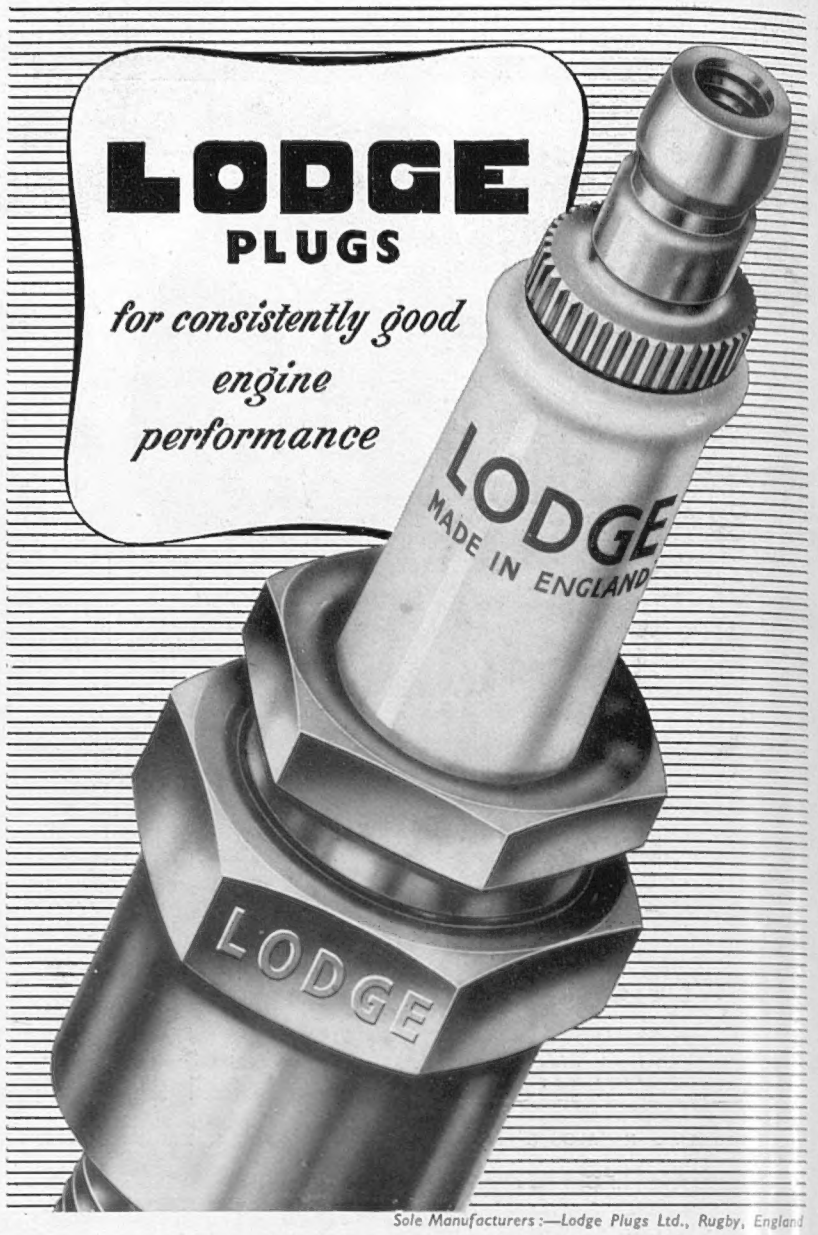

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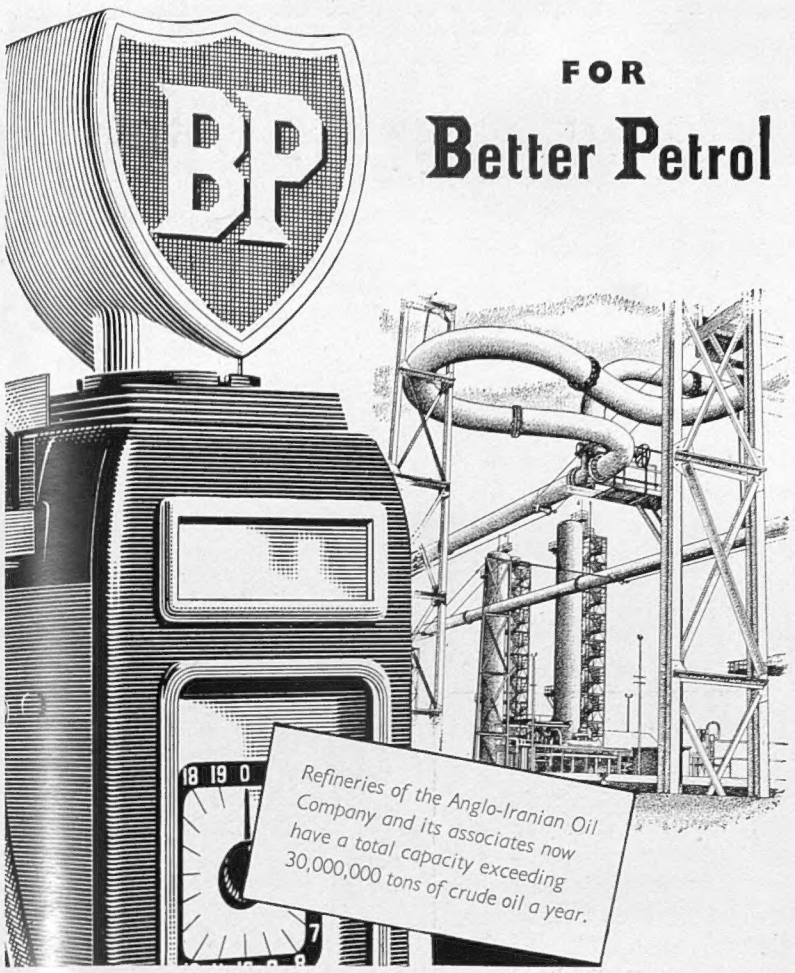

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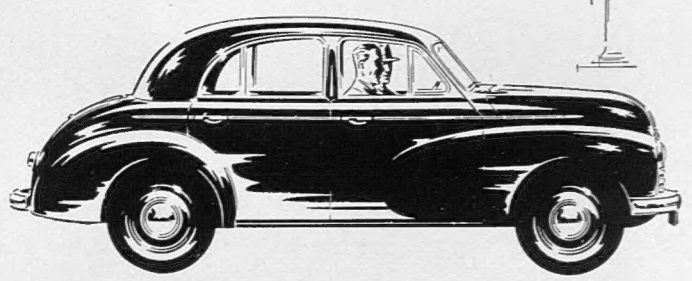

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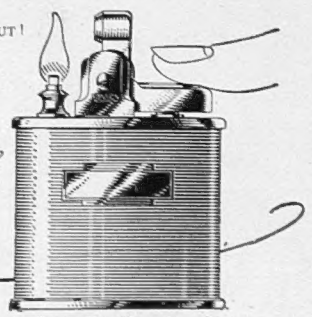

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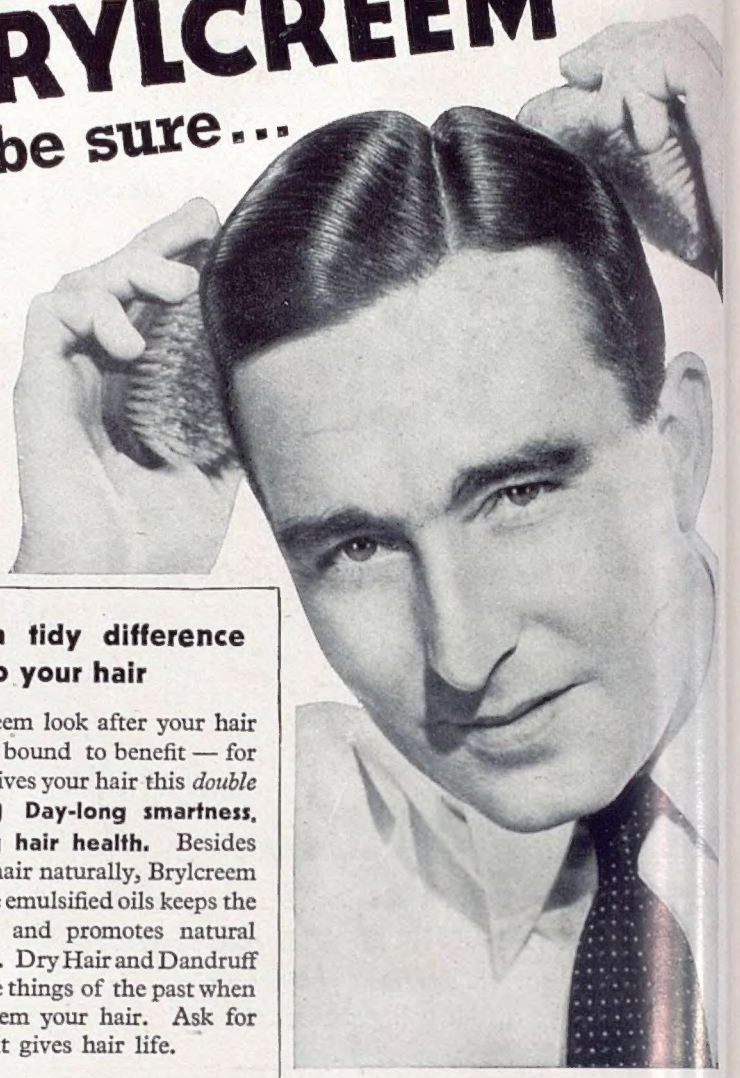

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